

October 16, 2009

This letter is being sent to you because you currently receive Alien Emergency Medical (AEM) benefits from the Department of Social and Health Services. Beginning November 1, 2009 the medical services you can receive under the AEM program will change. You have been identified as a person who has either cancer or kidney disease that requires dialysis.

***What is changing?***

Effective 11/1/2009, the medical services covered under this program will change to comply with Federal law and a state legislative mandate. The only services the department will now pay for under your current certification for eligibility are those needed to treat your kidney disease requiring dialysis or cancer.

***What medical services can I receive under AEM?***

Effective 11/1/2009, the department will only pay for the following services, as needed to treat cancer or kidney disease requiring dialysis:

- Physician and ARNP services
- Inpatient and outpatient hospital care;
- Dialysis;
- Surgical procedures and care;
- Office or clinic based care;
- Pharmacy services;
- Lab, x-ray or other diagnostic studies;
- Oxygen services;
- Respiratory and Intravenous (IV) therapy;
- Anesthesia services;
- Hospice services;
- Home health services, limited to two visits;
- Durable and non durable medical equipment;
- Non-emergency transportation; and
- Interpretative services;

Some of these services may require prior authorization.

***What medical services can I no longer receive under AEM?***

Effective 11/1/2009, treatment of any other health care condition under this program is not paid for.

Also the department will no longer pay for these services:

- Services by any healthcare professional provided to treat a condition not related to, or required to, treat cancer or renal disease;
- Organ transplants and related services, including pre-evaluation and post operative care;
- Health department services;
- School-based services;
- Personal care services;
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy services;

- Audiology services;
- Neuro-developmental services;
- Waiver services;
- Nursing facility services;
- Home health services, more than two visits;
- Vision services;
- Hearing services;
- Dental services, unless prior authorized and directly related to dialysis or cancer treatment;
- Mental health services;
- Podiatry services;
- Substance abuse services;
- Smoking cessation services;

***How does this affect me?***

If you are currently receiving **any** health care service(s) that is not required to treat your cancer or kidney disease requiring dialysis, the department will no longer pay for these service(s) after 11/1/2009.

If you are currently receiving an authorized service that is listed above, the department will continue to pay for this service until the authorization period ends.

Your eligibility for coverage will need to be re-certified periodically.

If needed, you may apply for coverage for other health care services:

Under the new Alien Emergency Medical Program, you may apply for coverage if you require emergency treatment to treat an emergency condition, not related to your condition of kidney disease or cancer, in the hospital setting: emergency room, emergency outpatient surgery, or an emergency inpatient admission.

If you require placement in a nursing home you may also apply for alien medical services under the Long Term Care program.

If you receive a service not needed to treat your cancer or renal disease requiring dialysis your provider may bill you for the service.

If you disagree with any of our decisions, you may ask to have the case reviewed. You can also ask for an administrative hearing. Administrative hearing rights are included in this letter.

For more detail information see WAC 388-438-0110 and WAC 388-438-0120.

If you have questions call please call our Medical Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-800-562-3022, available 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Additional information is available at the HRSA Web site at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov>.