

## ITH &

DIVISION OF MEDICAID Post Office Box 83720 Boise, Idaho 83720-0009 PHONE: (208) 334-5747 FAX: (208) 364-1811

December 1, 2010

## **MEDICAID INFORMATION RELEASE MA10-21**

To:

From:

Leslie M. Clement, Administrator Division of Medicaid

Subject:

House Bill 701 Budget Reductions - Changes in Vision Benefits

Effective January 1, 2011, the Department has initiated temporary rules which will reflect changes in vision benefits that are intended to align with legislative direction to maintain a viable, but reduced Medicaid program.

These changes in services and benefits are being implemented to comply with House Bill 701, Section 14 A and B that reflects legislative priorities for cost reductions. Medicaid was instructed to first review pricing to ensure that it did not pay any services higher than Medicare and did not overpay. The Department was also instructed to work with all providers to review and reduce current pricing through negotiations. The Department had previously worked with providers to adopt a reimbursement methodology that has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. No additional changes were made in pricing methodology this year and separate rules will be promulgated to reflect the existing rate methodology. The Department initiated statewide stakeholder participation regarding cost reduction ideas using teleconferencing, face to face meetings, and web surveys. The temporary rule changes identified below are intended to reflect the cost reduction suggestions received through these various channels and include eliminating non-effective, non-outcome based services; reducing and simplifying administrative requirements; and making other minor benefit changes. Other longer term efforts are in various stages of development to address legislative direction regarding selective contracting, waivers, and standardized statewide assessments. The specific language of temporary rule changes is being published in the Idaho Administrative Bulletin at www.adm.idaho.gov/adminrules.

Beginning January 1, 2011, Idaho Medicaid will reimburse for contact lenses only when the participant has an extreme condition that precludes the use of conventional lenses such as:

- An extreme myopic condition requiring a correction of at least minus ten (-10) diopters
- Cataract surgery
- Keratoconus
- Anisometropia
- Other extreme medical condition precluding the use of conventional lenses

If you have additional questions about the changes in vision benefits, please contact the policy subject matter expert for the Division of Medicaid at (208) 364-1897 or by email at sirokyj@dhw.idaho.gov.

LMC/rs