

HEALTH & WELFARE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER – Governor RICHARD M. ARMSTRONG – Director

November 22, 2011

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MEDICAID INFORMATION RELEASE #MA11-29

To:

Physicians, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs),

Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists, and

Hospitals

From:

J. Leary, Administrator

Subject:

Cd-payments (Co-pays)

The 2011 Idaho Legislature, through House Bill 260, has directed Idaho Medicaid to require participants to share in the cost of their health coverage by using co-pays.

Beginning January 1, 2012, co-pays will be required for office visits:

- With a physician, including nurse practitioners and physician's assistants.
- In a FQHC or a RHC.
- With a physical therapist, occupational therapist, or speech therapist (speech/language pathologist), either in an outpatient hospital setting or in their office.

Some office visits are exempt from co-pays. If the visit is for preventive services (e.g., wellness exam, pregnancy, immunizations) or family planning, a co-pay is not required. Urgent care clinics (billing as an urgent care facility) and Indian health clinics are exempt from co-pay requirements. If Medicaid reimbursement for the visit (according to the Medicaid Fee Schedule) is \$36.50 or less, a co-pay is not required. Co-pay requirements put in place in 2007 for emergency room and ambulance services remain in effect.

Not all Medicaid participants are subject to co-pays. You can check a participant's eligibility using the www.idmedicaid.com website, by calling 1 (866) 686-4272, or through a 270/271 transaction. The response will return a co-pay indicator of either "exempt" or "\$3.65". If the participant is subject to a co-pay, but unable to make the payment, you can:

- Bill the participant for the co-pay.
- Refuse to provide services that day.
- Waive the co-pay.

If you choose to waive a co-pay for a participant, you must have a written office policy about when a waiver is used. Regardless of whether or not you charged or collected a co-pay, \$3.65 will be deducted from your reimbursement for claims where a co-pay could have been charged.

If you have any questions about the implementation of co-pays, please contact the Alternative Care Coordinator for the Division of Medicaid at (208) 364-1892. If you have technical questions about the eligibility transaction, please call your local Provider Relations Consultant at Molina Medicaid Solutions.

Thank you for participating in the Idaho Medicaid Program.

PJL/rs