



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Office of Health Services  
Medical Care Programs

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
**Managed Care Organization Transmittal No. 83**  
**Hospice Transmittal No. 9**  
**March 25, 2011**

To: Managed Care Organizations  
Hospice Providers

From: Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director  
Office of Health Services

NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

Subject: Coverage of Hospice and Treatment Services for Children

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This transmittal is to clarify Section 2302 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) regarding concurrent care for children which removes the prohibition on children receiving curative treatment upon the election of the hospice benefit. This provision was effective upon enactment of the ACA on March 23, 2010. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a State Medicaid Director letter in September providing additional guidance. The full text of the letter may be found at:

<http://www.cms.gov/smdl/downloads/SMD10018.pdf>

Hospice services are a covered benefit for all children under the Maryland Medicaid program. All medically necessary hospice services are included for qualified recipients when a physician has certified that the recipient is within the last six months of life. The change made by the ACA provides that hospice services must be made available to Medicaid children without forgoing any other services to which the recipient is entitled for the treatment of the terminal condition.

All Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) and hospice providers must ensure that all appropriate staff within their organization are trained on this requirement. For recipients in the fee-for-service program, Medicaid's claims system is capable of accepting claims for curative services provided to children. MCOs must ensure their claims systems are appropriately configured to process claims resulting from this change.

If you need additional information regarding this transmittal, please contact Marc Blowe at [blowem@dhhm.state.md.us](mailto:blowem@dhhm.state.md.us).

