

# **DMA CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL NO. 02-02, Child Support**

**DATE: JULY 20, 2001**

**Manual: Family & Children's Medicaid**

**Change No. 02-02**

**To: County Directors of Social Services**

**Effective: August 1, 2001**

## **I. BACKGROUND**

Through the outreach efforts of states and other organizations, questions regarding paternity and medical support on Medicaid and NCHC applications have been identified as barriers to enrolling otherwise eligible children in these programs. As a result of these findings, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), issued a letter to State Medicaid Directors on December 19, 2000. The letter clarified the requirements of cooperating with Child Support in child only cases.

While the Child Support Enforcement agency can help provide families with financial support and health care, involvement with Child Support should not deter families from seeking medical assistance. Cooperating with Child Support should not become a barrier to enrolling eligible children in either Medicaid or NC Health Choice.

## **II. CONTENT OF THE CHANGE**

**A. As a result of the CMS letter and through collaboration with the State Child Support Enforcement Section, MA-3000, MA-3225, MA-3270, MA-3345 and MA-3360 of the F&C manual are revised to add that:**

1. Caretakers of children receiving Medicaid must cooperate with Child Support only if the caretaker is applying for or receiving Medicaid for herself (except for MPW), and

2. Child only cases (the caretaker is not receiving and has not applied for Medicaid for herself) are referred to Child Support only if the caretaker requests services and agrees to cooperate.
3. Independently living children are no longer required to cooperate with Child Support. Do not refer Medicaid cases for independently living children.

#### **B. Other Changes to Reflect Current Policy**

1. MA-3000 is revised to remove the reference to Carolina Alternatives.
2. MA-3225 is revised to add the requirement that a timely notice is required prior to transferring a case from NCHC (classification J, K, or S) to Optional Extended Coverage (classification L). Currently there is no automated timely notice. Send a manual timely notice and, at the end of the timely notice period, use the adequate code 53. Do not override the automated notice.
3. MA-3345 is updated to reflect changes in the CHAMPUS program.
4. MA-3360 is revised to remove the reference to the function through ACTS that would provide a report of child support paid. This function was never made available after implementation of ACTS.
5. MA-3360 is also updated to add that cooperation of the recipient caretaker with Child Support is required during the first 12 months of Extended Medicaid (Earned Income Disregard) but is not required during the second 12 months of Extended Medicaid (Transitional). This is not a change in policy.

This section has also been reorganized.

#### **C. EIS Changes**

The Child Support Referral Question Screen for Applications and Cases will be updated. Please refer to EIS Change Number 02-02 for information regarding these changes. **These changes will not be implemented in EIS until August 6. Between August 1 and August 3 caseworkers must use the PF2 key to bypass the referral process for child only cases when the caretaker is not receiving or applying for assistance for herself and has not voluntarily agreed to cooperate with Child Support.**

**D. Child Only Cases Already Active in ACTS**

Child only cases referred to Child Support Enforcement via ACTS prior to August 1, 2001 will be identified. Local Child Support offices received instructions to close these cases unless there is an existing order or an indication that the caretaker requested assistance.

**III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

August 1, 2001

**IV. MAINTENANCE OF MANUAL**

- A. Remove MA-3000, pages 5-6, 11-14.  
Insert MA-3000, pages 5-6, 11-14.**
- B. Remove MA-3225, pages 7-8, 29-33.  
Insert MA-3225, pages 7-8, 29-33.**
- C. Remove MA-3270, pages 21-22.  
Insert MA-3270, pages 21-22.**
- D. Remove MA-3345, pages 3-8.  
Insert MA-3345, pages 3-8.**
- E. Remove MA-3360, pages 1-14. Retain the figures.  
Insert MA-3360, pages 1-16.**

If you have any questions, please contact your Medicaid Program Representative.

Nina M. Yeager  
Director

(This material was researched and written by Renee Boston, Policy Consultant, Medicaid Eligibility Unit.)