

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL NO. 09-04 NC HEALTH CHOICE COPAYMENTS

DATE: 11/12/03

Manual: Family and Children's Medicaid
Change No: 09-04
To: County Directors of Social Services
Effective: DECEMBER 1, 2003

I. BACKGROUND

Ratified House Bill 397 from the 2003 General Assembly session authorized a copayment for outpatient prescription drugs in the North Carolina Health Choice for Children program regardless of family income. This copayment change for NC Health Choice will be effective February 1, 2004, for all children. However, this policy change is effective December 1, 2003, because you must begin entering data in EIS in December to support this change.

Families whose income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level will pay a copayment for prescription drugs. There will be a one-dollar (\$1.00) fee for any outpatient generic prescription drug and for each outpatient brand-name prescription drug for which there is no generic substitution available. There will be a three-dollar (\$3.00) fee for each outpatient brand-name prescription drug for which there is a generic substitution available. If the family is at or below the 150% income limit there shall be no additional deductibles, copayments, or other cost-sharing charges.

Families whose income is above 150% of the federal poverty level will see a change in drug copayments. There will be a one-dollar (\$1.00) fee for each outpatient generic prescription drug and for each outpatient brand-name prescription drug with no generic substitution available. The fee for each outpatient brand name prescription drug for which there is a generic substitution available is ten dollars (\$10.00).

Members of federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaskan Natives are exempt from enrollment fees and copayments regardless of family income. The two Indian tribes in North Carolina are the Catawba and the Cherokee.

II. CONTENT OF CHANGE

In addition to the above change, MA-3255, NC Health Choice, is revised as follows:

A. Procedures under ongoing case maintenance have been expanded to give further instruction when:

1. Child moves out of state and returns, or
2. Child is approved for SSI, or
3. Child becomes pregnant and is switched to another Medicaid program, or
4. County makes classification error.

B. Clarification has been made on the applicant who applies for NCHC and has comprehensive medical insurance. Take the application and ensure insurance is dropped before authorizing for assistance.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

The changes in copayments are effective February 1, 2004. However, policy and procedures to support this change are effective December 2003. You must enter data in EIS in December 2003 to support these changes. Refer to implementation instructions below.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

A. Current Procedures

Presently EIS accepts an S classification for those federally recognized American Indian tribes with income over 150% of the FPL. When this information is transmitted to the claims processing contractor, EIS changed the S classification to J so the card printed with no copayments listed. Now that NCHC children with a J classification will have a copayment, a new classification code is needed for federally recognized Indian tribes.

B. Federally Recognized Tribes

A new NC Health Choice classification of A has been created to identify NC Health Choice recipients who are members of a federally recognized Indian tribe (in North Carolina, Catawba or Cherokee) whose family income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level. The classification code J must be changed for these individuals to A to exempt these children from the drug copayments.

C. Timeline

DATE	ACTIVITY	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Monday, December 1, 2003	New Policy Is Effective This Date. County DSS Caseworkers Begin Keying Class A In EIS. First Day That EIS and EDS Will Accept The New Class A. EIS Begins Transmitting The A Medicaid Class- and the S Medicaid Class- To BCBS.	DMA/County DSS
Monday, December 1, 2003	First Day That BCBS Will Accept The Medicaid Class A and S.	BCBS
Monday, December 1, 2003	Stop Printing Cards For Medicaid Class A and S That Are Newly Approved or Reenrolled. Providers Can Call BCBS To Verify Enrollment.	BCBS
Monday, December 15, 2003	Last Day For County DSS To Key Medicaid Class A Cases Into EIS In Order To Ensure It Will Be On The BCBS File For The New Cards	DMA/County DSS
Friday, December 19, 2003	Last Day To Send File To The Printer. Recipients Can Also Request Cards, If Necessary, Beginning This Date.	BCBS
Monday, December 22, 2003	Begin Producing NCHC Cards Again For New Approvals and Reenrollments in Medicaid Class A and S.	BCBS
Tuesday, December 23, 2003	Printer Begins Printing Cards/Notices.	BCBS
Friday, January 2, 2004	Printer To Begin Mailing Cards/Notices	BCBS

DATE	ACTIVITY	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Friday, January 9, 2004	Last Day To Mail Last Group of Cards/Notices To Meet January 16 th Deadline For Receipt.	BCBS Mails
Friday, January 16, 2004	Notice Must Be Received By Recipients By This Date To Meet 10 Work-day Notice Requirement	BCBS Mails The Notice With The New NCHC Card.
Sunday, February 1, 2004	New Co-Pays Effective This Date	BCBS

D. Ongoing Cases

1. Upon receipt of this change notice, review cases in your caseload to determine if you have members of federally recognized Indian tribes on NC Health Choice. If so examine these cases to determine if they:
 - a. Have income at or below the 150% income limit.

If income is over 150%, and the classification is J, change the classification code to S.
 - b. Are members of the federally recognized Indian tribes. Refer to MA-3255, NC Health Choice, II.A.8.

If they are not members of the federally recognized Indian take no further action.
 - c. Have the J classification code.

If a, b, and c. are met, follow procedures in 2.
2. Beginning December 1, 2003, EIS will accept the classification code A. If the criteria in 1. are met, change the classification code in EIS to an A code with a Medicaid Effective Date of January 1, 2004. Verify that the code has changed on the next workday.

Enter these changes in EIS no later than December 15, 2003. Failure to change these codes by this deadline will result in the recipient receiving an incorrect NCHC card. The incorrect card would show a drug copayment. Children will then have a drug copayment which is not allowed under regulations.

E. Re-enrollments Completed Prior To December 1, 2003

1. If the child (ren) is a member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe and the family income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, enter the re-enrollment in EIS with a J classification.

Flag the case for December 1, 2003.

2. On or after December 1, 2003, but no later than December 15, 2003, enter an A classification with a Medicaid Effective Date of January 1, 2004.

F. Re-enrollments Completed On or After December 1, 2003

If the child(ren) is a member of a Federally recognized American Indian tribe and the family income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, enter the re-enrollment with a classification code A and the correct Medicaid effective date.

G. Applications Approved Prior to December 1, 2003

1. If the child(ren) is a member of a Federally recognized American Indian tribe and the family income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, enter the approval in EIS with a J classification.
2. Flag the case for December 1, 2003.
3. On or after December 1, 2003, but no later than December 15, 2003, enter an A classification code with a Medicaid effective date of January 1, 2004.

H. Applications Approved On or After December 1, 2003

If the child(ren) is a member of a Federally recognized American Indian tribe and the family income is at or below 150% of the Federal poverty level, enter the approval with a classification code A and the correct Medicaid effective date. This Medicaid effective date may be before December 1, 2003.

V. MAINTENANCE OF MANUAL

Remove: MA-3255, NC Health Choice, pages 1 through 46

Insert: [MA-3255](#), NC Health Choice, pages 1 through 46

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

Gary Fuquay
Acting Director

[Attachment: Letter to Current NCHC recipients \(English & Spanish\)](#)

[This material was prepared by Angela Lassiter, Medicaid Program Consultant, Medicaid Eligibility Unit.]

