



30 East Broad Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414  
jfs.ohio.gov

To: Directors, County Departments of Job & Family Services

From: Barbara C. Edwards, Deputy Director  
Office of Ohio Health Plans

Subject: Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Efforts

Date: September 2, 2005

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) conducted a conference call this afternoon with a number of states to determine what support is required to provide needed Medicaid related services to evacuated people of the hurricane affected areas. Included on the call were representatives from Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. Although we do not have confirmed answers from CMS, I am recommending the following short term guidelines for handling eligibility related issues with evacuees:

- Presume intent to remain in Ohio for residence purposes if applicant is uncertain
- If verifications are not available, self declaration is acceptable
- Process applications as quickly as possible

CMS will provide guidance in the near future on regulations that may be waived for this population. States have requested this population be considered a “refugee” category of assistance so the associated service costs can be funded at 100% Federal Financial Participation rate. I am asking you to track these individuals by using their last known address (prior to coming to Ohio) as the street address and by using the Ohio address as the mailing address. States are awaiting a response from CMS for federal approval and clarification. Once received, I will provide further information.

Counties may encounter evacuees who have Medicaid coverage from one of the counties of the affected states (list attached). As they may be seeking services from Ohio Medicaid providers, you may receive questions from providers about reimbursement issues. You may refer them to websites for the affected states instructing them how to enroll. Our Provider Network Management will also assist providers and may be reached at 1-800-686-1516.

For questions regarding Medicaid eligibility, please direct your inquiries to the ABDTA and CFCTA mailboxes for assistance.

c: Barbara Riley, Director	Loretta Adams, OJFSDA
China Widener, Chief of Staff	Crystal Allen, PCSAO
ODJFS Deputy Directors	Kim Newsome, OCDA
Larry Long, CCAO	Mike Hogan, Mental Health
Merle Kearns, Aging	J. Nick Baird, M.D., Health
Carolyn Givens, ODADAS	Kenneth Ritchey, MRDD
Susan Tave Zelman, Education	Jon Allen, ODJFS Communications