



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health**


1931 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1931


Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Leah Devlin, DDS, MPH  
State Health Director

May 15, 2008

To: Local Health Directors  
Attention: Family Planning Coordinators

From: Joe Holliday, MD, MPH   
Women's Health Branch Head, Division of Public Health

Tara Larson   
Chief Clinical Operations Officer, Division of Medical Assistance

Subject: Distribution of Oral Contraceptive Pills to Family Planning Medicaid Waiver (FPW)  
Patients by Health Departments

The billing and reimbursement process for oral contraceptive pills (OCPs) for family planning patients recently changed for all Medicaid programs except the Family Planning Waiver (see: May 2008 General Medicaid Bulletin, available online at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/bulletin/0508bulletin.pdf>). Once CMS approval is obtained, all Medicaid programs, including the Family Planning Waiver, will follow the new process. As a result of this change, we have received the following question from several Health Departments. This Q&A memorandum is to assure that all Health Departments have the correct information.

Question: Since Medicaid reimbursement rates to Health Departments for an annual family planning examination do not include the cost of OCPs for a year, can Health Departments write prescriptions for OCPs for Family Planning Waiver Medicaid patients?

Answer: As a temporary process, Health Departments may give prescriptions to Family Planning Waiver Medicaid enrolled patients for OCPs. Health Departments who provide prescriptions must assure that OCPs are readily accessible to these patients. The cost of prescribed OCPs will not be included in the cost report for the Health Departments providing prescriptions. Once CMS approves reimbursement for S4993, the procedure code for OCPs, for Health Department Family Planning Waiver Medicaid enrolled patients, the use of prescriptions for this purpose will be discontinued.

If further information is needed, please contact your Women's Health Branch Regional Nurse Consultant or Tysha David from the Division of Medical Assistance 919 855-4328 or [tysha.david@ncmail.net](mailto:tysha.david@ncmail.net).

Cc: Joy Reed  
Kevin Ryan



North Carolina Public Health  
Working for a healthier and safer North Carolina  
Everywhere. Everyday. Everybody.



Location: 5605 Six Forks Rd. • Raleigh, N.C. 27609-3811  
An Equal Opportunity Employer