



DAVID MAXWELL-JOLLY  
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor

June 1, 2009

Dear Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that effective July 1, 2009 pursuant to Assembly Bill X3 5 (Evans, Chapter 20, Statutes of 2009), the budget trailer bill for the recently signed budget, optometry and dispensing optician services will no longer be a covered benefit for adult beneficiaries 21 years old and older under the Medi-Cal program. In addition to optometry and dispensing optician services, acupuncture, adult dental, audiology, chiropractic, incontinence creams and washes products, podiatric, psychology, and speech therapy services will also be excluded from coverage under the Medi-Cal program.

Adult Medi-Cal beneficiaries exempt from the elimination of optional benefits are:

- Beneficiaries requiring services for the treatment of other conditions that might complicate the pregnancy.
- Beneficiaries under 21 years of age and whose course of treatment is scheduled to continue after he/she turns 21 years of age.
- Beneficiaries, regardless of age, whose course of treatment began prior to July 1, 2009, and such treatment is scheduled to continue after July 1, 2009.
- Beneficiaries residing in a skilled nursing facility (that is, Nursing Facilities Level A [NF-A] and Level B [NF-B]), as defined in subdivisions (c) and (d) of Section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code and licensed pursuant to subdivision (k) of Section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code. An adult subacute facility is considered an NF-B facility.

Effective July 1, 2009, all electronic optical orders for adult Medi-Cal beneficiaries 21 years of age and older will require that the provider certify on the Prison Industry Authority (PIA) Optical Online Web site that the beneficiary meets one of the above exemptions. Providers who submit orders only by hardcopy will be required to indicate that the beneficiary resides in a skilled nursing facility or to include a Treatment Authorization Request Number from the Vision Services Branch or medical justification for continuing care and pregnancy related exemptions in the *Special Instructions* area of the PIA Optical Order Form.

The Department of Health Care Services and PIA will provide additional instructions prior to the July 1, 2009 implementation date regarding the processing of electronic optical orders. Optical orders without this certification will be returned if submitted by hardcopy and will not process if submitted electronically. Providers are advised to visit the PIA Optical Online Web FAQ's regularly at [https://optical.pia.ca.gov/POOL/FAQ\\_Links.htm](https://optical.pia.ca.gov/POOL/FAQ_Links.htm) for information regarding any updates on the processing of optical orders.

We appreciate your continued support of the Medi-Cal Vision Care Program and will work diligently to ensure that the transition on July 1, 2009 occurs with minimal impact to your office.

Sincerely,

The Medi-Cal Vision Care Program

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