



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Med-QUEST Division
Clinical Standards Office
P. O. Box 700190
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

November 21, 2008

MEMORANDUM

ACS M08-19

TO: Medicaid Physicians, Dentists, Other Providers with Prescribing Authority
and Pharmacy Providers

FROM: Kenneth S. Fink, MD, MGA, MPH *KSF*
Med-QUEST Division Administrator

SUBJECT: **FEE-FOR-SERVICE (FFS) PROGRAM ONLY**

- 1. QUEST EXPANDED ACCESS (QExA) PROGRAM FOR FFS RECIPIENTS - EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2009**
- 2. MEDICAID DRUG FEDERAL UPPER LIMITS (FUL) UPDATES - EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 6, 2008 and NOVEMBER 28, 2008**

1. QExA Program for FFS Recipients - Effective February 1, 2009

Effective February 1, 2009, QExA will begin service as a new Medicaid managed care program for seniors, 65 years of age and older, and people of all ages with disabilities. The Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) FFS recipients including those who also have Medicare are choosing a plan now through December 1, 2008. (Note: QUEST recipients are NOT impacted by the QExA program.)

There will be two (2) managed care plans: Ohana Health Plan and Evercare. FFS providers are encouraged to contact these plans to become part of their provider. See below for health plan contact information.

- **Ohana Health Plan**

Provider Hotline Telephone: 1-888-846-4262, select Option 2 and request to be transferred to Provider Relations. Hours of operation: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time (HST), Monday through Friday.

- **Evercare**

Prescription Solutions Contracting Department Telephone: 1-800-613-3591. Hours of operation: 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., HST (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Pacific Standard Time), Monday through Friday.

For more information about the QExA program or to attend a stakeholder's meeting:

- See the QExA website at www.qexa.org; or
- Call the QExA Helpline at 1-866-928-1959, a toll-free number to find a stakeholder's meeting near you or to schedule one.

NOTE: Dual eligible recipients (also have Medicare coverage) need to choose a QExA plan by December 1, 2008, that will cover the Medicare Part D excluded drugs such as over-the-counter products, benzodiazepines, etc., effective February 1, 2009. Medicaid FFS is currently covering these.

Some of the dual eligibles will also need to change their Medicare Part D plan effective January 1, 2009, because some plans will be discontinued and others are too expensive for Medicaid assistance. Ohana Health Plan and Evercare also offer Medicare Part D plans along with other companies and this may be confusing for recipients. These Part D plans are separate from the QExA plan options above so some recipients need to make the following two (2) changes: One (1) change for Medicaid and one (1) change for Medicare. Others will only need to make one (1) change for Medicaid because they will continue with their current Part D plan.

2. Medicaid Drug FUL Update - Effective November 6, 2008 and November 28, 2008

On July 15, 2008, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, Public Law 110-275, was enacted. In accordance with the law, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will resume publishing the FUL for multiple source drugs, using the methodology in 42 CFR 447.332 as in effect on December 31, 2006. The October 2008 changes are to be implemented no later than **November 6, 2008** and the November 2008 changes are to be implemented no later than **November 28, 2008**. The FUL deletions, additions and price list may be reviewed at the following websites:

- CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Reimbursement/Downloads/ChangesMadeToTransmittal37.pdf>;
- Med-QUEST website at <http://www.med-quest.us>, linking to State of Hawaii Prescription Benefits' home page; or
- State of Hawaii Prescription Benefits' home page <http://www.himed-questffs.org>.