



# STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR  
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
KEVIN W. CONCANNON, DIRECTOR

Informational Letter: #435

Date: July 6, 2005

TO: Medicaid Providers

FROM: Eugene I. Gessow  
Medicaid Director

SUBJECT: IowaCare

The 2005 Iowa Legislature has created a limited Medicaid expansion program effective July 1, 2005 that will replace the state's indigent care program known as "State Papers". This new program, called IowaCare, will provide similar medical services to needy Iowans while drawing much needed additional Medicaid funds from the federal government.

We're excited to launch this new program and we want you to know that the 5,000 or so neediest Iowans on "State Papers" will have continuity of care. Everyone in the current State Papers Program who has an appointment or medical service already scheduled in July or August will be served. And everyone in the State Papers program who is being treated for a chronic major medical condition will also continue to receive services even if their income is above 200% of federal poverty level. Going forward, most people with household incomes of at or below 200% of FPL (or about \$1,600/ month for a family of two) will be eligible for IowaCare.

As a provider of services, we appreciate the services that you provide for Iowa Medicaid members. Initially, IowaCare members (unlike the current Medicaid population) will only be able to access Medicaid covered services at the University of Iowa and, if a resident of Polk County, at Broadlawns Medical Center. The State Mental Health Institutes will also be providing services for members through Medicaid and IowaCare. That means that many of those patients you had previously directed to the State Papers program in order to access services at the University of Iowa Hospital will continue to have access to these services through the University of Iowa Hospital.

To help defray the cost of expanding this benefit to more Iowans, participants in IowaCare will pay a small monthly premium determined by income. It will range from zero to about \$75 a month per covered member.

Each recipient of the "State Papers Program" has been mailed an IowaCare application form. If you know of any people who could benefit from IowaCare, please refer them to their local Department of Human Services Office. DHS offices are listed in the appendix of your Iowa Medicaid Provider Manual, or you may call toll-free 1-877-347-1633 to find the office in your area.



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August 5, 2005

## Informational Letter No. 465

To: All Iowa Medicaid Participating Providers  
From: The Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise  
RE: IowaCare Clarification  
Effective Date: July 1, 2005

Dear Provider:

Beginning July 1, 2005, the IowaCare Program expanded medical coverage for uninsured Iowans. However, the services covered and provider network are limited and are not the same as the regular Medicaid Program. Section 249J.7, Code of Iowa specifies the provider network for the IowaCare Program. The only providers covered under IowaCare are the following:

- University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.
- Broadlawns Medical Center.
- The State's four Mental Health Institutions at Cherokee, Clarinda, Independence and Mt. Pleasant.

No other providers will be reimbursed under IowaCare in the current implementation phase for services rendered to Members who have IowaCare eligibility. The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise has received some claims from providers outside of the IowaCare network for non-covered services for IowaCare Members. Those claims cannot be reimbursed under the law. These claims will be denied.

The Member's IowaCare application states the covered IowaCare providers. Members are informed at the time of enrollment that no other providers are covered. If an IowaCare member visits a provider outside of the IowaCare network, that provider may bill and collect payment from the member for services under their normal process. However, providers outside of the IowaCare network must remind that IowaCare Members that the Member is responsible for the service rendered by non-Iowa Care Providers.

The IowaCare Act does include future benefit and provider network expansions. Beginning March 1, 2006, the IowaCare Act expands coverage to include a comprehensive medical examination. Each member will be required to receive the medical examination within 45 days of enrollment. The provider network for these medical examinations is not limited to the six providers listed above. Section 249J.6 specifies the provider network for the medical examinations, to include participating physicians, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, as well as free clinics, rural health clinics, and federally qualified health centers.

The medical examination service does not begin until March 1, 2006. An informational release will be sent to providers prior to that date with instructions on how to participate in providing that service. Until that date, no services will be covered for any provider other than those listed above, as specified by the Code of Iowa.

For further information about the IowaCare Program, please visit the IME website at: [www.ime.state.ia.us](http://www.ime.state.ia.us). If you have questions about this Informational Letter, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or locally at 515-725-1004.