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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 94 LCM-66

Date: June 9, 1994

Division: Health and Long Term
Care

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Authorization of Medicaid Taxi Transportation

ATTACHMENTS: NONE

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the procedures districts should follow for the prior authorization/payment of taxi as a Medicaid payable medical transportation expense.

A number of districts have reported receiving physician orders for taxi on behalf of recipients. Department regulation at 505.10(c)(4) requires the recommendation of a medical practitioner for ambulette and nonemergency ambulance transportation only. Taxi transportation, on the other hand, is available when a recipient has no access to a personal vehicle, public transportation, or other less expensive mode of transportation, and the medical appointment is too far to walk. The decision to authorize taxi transportation is a logistical rather than a medical decision. Orders from medical practitioners for taxi transportation are not required and do not have to be used. Taxi transportation is not to be authorized when the recipient has access to a less costly mode of transportation, such as a public bus.

If you have any questions on this issue, please call Stephen Zabala at (518) 473-4929, (E-mail AW8450)

Sincerely,

Sue Kelly
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Health and Long Term Care