



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

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Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor • Joan Henneberry, Executive Director

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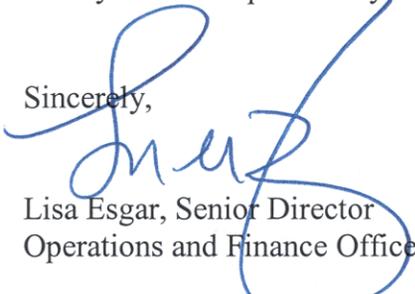
RE: Medical Assistance Sites Authority and Accountability

Dear County and Medical Assistance Site Directors:

It has come to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's (the Department) attention that there have been some auditor inquiries regarding medical assistance (MA) sites' authority to process medical assistance cases through the Colorado Benefits Management System. Under Section 25.5-4-205 (1) (a), C.R.S. (2006), the MA sites have the authority and responsibility to "accept medical assistance applications, to determine medical assistance eligibility, and to determine presumptive eligibility". Therefore, the Department requires all State approved MA sites to be responsible for medical assistance cases, as an independent entity. In accordance with this regulation, MA sites are contractually held accountable for all eligibility determinations made and are responsible for any actions taken on existing county assigned cases which may result in an adverse audit finding. Under State statute and rules, county departments of social or human services cannot be held accountable for performance conducted by an MA site. In addition, the Department believes that counties cannot be audited for MA site responsibilities.

MA sites are responsible to process the medical assistance application and store the applications and supplemental information at their locations and transfer the electronic file to the appropriate county office for ongoing case maintenance in CBMS. For the time period before the case is transferred, the county has no responsibility. If you have any questions, please call Donna Kellow at 303-866-3676.

Sincerely,



Lisa Esgar, Senior Director
Operations and Finance Office

cc: Barbara Prehmus
Donna Kellow
Gayle Fowler
Heather Hewitt