

Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP)

Memorandum

MATP OPS # 10-2013-031

Date: October 15, 2013

Subject: New Access Standard for Transportation to Medical Providers

To: All Statewide County Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) Offices

From: Tyrone E. Williams, Director, Division of Medical Assistance Transportation

Purpose:

To notify county MATP offices of a new access standard regarding transportation to qualified Medical Assistance (MA) enrolled providers.

Background:

Effective March 1, 2013, the expansion of the HealthChoices Managed Care system was completed to include all 67 counties in Pennsylvania. This expansion eliminated the Access Plus program, and significantly reduced the population receiving services in the Fee-for-Service (FFS) delivery system. To improve the program, we have developed a consistent access standard that applies to all MA recipients utilizing non-emergency medical transportation in the commonwealth.

Discussion:

Effective December 1, 2013, MATP County offices shall apply the following access standard to all MA recipients participating in the HealthChoices and Fee-for-Service (including dual eligibles) programs requesting transportation to qualified MA-enrolled providers:

The MATP County Office shall transport MA eligible recipients to a qualified MA-enrolled provider of the recipient's choice, with the following exceptions:

Pharmacy providers - Transportation to a pharmacy provider shall only be provided to a choice of two pharmacies closest to the recipient's residence or two pharmacies closest to the recipient's prescribing physician's office (if the prescription was provided at the office visit and is being filled in route from the prescribing physician's office).

Methadone Treatment – Transportation to methadone treatment shall only be provided up to the closest in-network methadone treatment program to a recipient's residence, unless the recipient is granted an exception.

All other standards within the MATP Instruction and Requirements remain in effect.

This policy change brings FFS recipients in line with HealthChoices recipients by also providing them access to a range of qualified providers (not just the closest) who are generally available and used by other residents of the community. The new access standard does not

displace approved service areas and scheduled times for out-of-county trips. However, county programs must continue to consider exceptions based on several factors: age, medical condition, availability of medical providers, type of medical provider, etc.

Next Steps:

County MATP offices should begin to take the necessary actions to comply with the new access standards by December 1, 2013. This should include educating all staff involved in the MATP of the new access standards.

Should you have any questions, please contact your program manager or advisor for your respective county.