

Wyoming
Department
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Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., Director and State Health Officer

Governor Dave Freudenthal

April 14, 2009

Ref: S-2009-315

Dear EqualityCare and/or CHIP Provider:

I am writing today to give you information on a federal requirement that affects all of us. This requirement helps to protect the EqualityCare (Medicaid) and Kid Care CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) from fraud and abuse, which is a concern for all of us.

The Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General (HHS-OIG) excludes individuals and entities from participation in Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and all Federal healthcare programs based on the authority contained in various sections of the Act, including sections 1128, 1128A, and 1156.

When the HHS-OIG has excluded a provider, Medicaid and CHIP are generally prohibited from paying for any items or services furnished, ordered, or prescribed by excluded individuals or entities. This includes payment for administrative and management services not directly related to patient care, such as salaries and fringe benefits. Other examples include services performed by nurses, technicians, administrative staff, ambulance drivers, dispatchers, delivery drivers, social workers, billing agents, accountants, utilization reviewers, contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) will make no payments to States for any amount expended for items or services furnished under the plan by an individual or entity while being excluded from participation. Any such payments constitute an overpayment and are subject to recoupment.

Providers participating in federal programs are obligated to screen all employees and contractors to determine whether any of them have been excluded. This screening should take place upon hiring a new staff person and monthly thereafter on all staff to check for any new additions to the exclusion list. If any exclusionary information is discovered, it should be reported to ACS and/or BCBS immediately.

The following website provides current information on excluded parties: <http://www.oig.hhs.gov/fraud/exclusions.asp>. You may search by name and verify the match by social security number or tax identification number. There is also a downloadable database that can be maintained by the provider. This option does not have the social security number or tax identification number match.

401 Hathaway Building • Cheyenne WY 82002
E-Mail: wdh@health.wyo.gov • WEB Page: www.health.wyo.gov
Toll Free 1-866-571-0944 • Main Number (307) 777-7656 • FAX (307) 777-7439

Report any exclusionary information for EqualityCare (Medicaid) to:

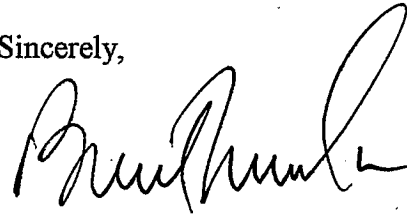
ACS Provider Relations
P.O. Box 667
Cheyenne, WY 82003
1-800-251-1268

Report any exclusionary information for KidCare CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) to:

BCBS
Attn: Cathi Lewis
P.O. Box 2266
Cheyenne, WY 82003
1-800-209-9720

I know you share the Wyoming Department of Health's commitment to preventing fraud and abuse in our programs and we continue to appreciate your involvement in these programs. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Christine Bates, Program Integrity Manager, at (307) 777-3594, or Patricia Guzman, Manager, Kid Care CHIP, at (307) 777-6228.

Sincerely,



Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P.,
Director and State Health Officer
Wyoming Department of Health

BS/CB/ct

c: Christine Bates, Program Integrity Manager, Office of Healthcare Financing
Teri Green, State Medicaid Agent, Office of Healthcare Financing
Patricia Guzman, Manager, Kid Care CHIP