



PROVIDER ALERT

Alert (3) – 2005 – 2 – 1 - HCAL

Pre Release Medicaid Application For Persons In Jail---

A Pilot Project in Allegheny County

Many individuals who have been incarcerated, particularly those with behavioral health needs, require critical health care upon release from jail and have experienced delays in establishing Medicaid eligibility. The Allegheny County DHS and the Allegheny County Assistance Office have developed a pre release Medicaid application process that will allow for expedited Medicaid enrollment for individuals being released from jail. Community providers do not hold any responsibility in the implementation of this process, but may receive requests for behavioral health services from individuals who have gone through this expedited process.

The implementation date for this pilot is January 27, 2005.

Because of the expedited Health Choices Enrollment Initiative, implemented January 1, 2005, these individuals being released from the jail under this pilot will also become eligible with Community Care Behavioral Health on or about the day of release from jail. Since implementation of expedited enrollment, individuals no longer have a period of MA FFS eligibility for Behavioral Health. This Pre release application pilot project expedites enrollment for Medicaid benefits only, not cash assistance.

The purpose of this notification is to remind providers of the importance of checking EVS daily as eligibility with Community Care may occur as early as the day of release from jail.