

KATRINA UPDATE

Medi-Cal Bulletin

September 2005

Hurricane Katrina Evacuees

Hurricane Katrina has resulted in the evacuation of many people from the areas of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. These evacuees may arrive in California through formal Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) processes, private assistance, or on their own.

Registration with FEMA

Individuals from the hurricane-impacted areas are being evacuated to other states through two channels: Official commitments between FEMA and state and local governments and unofficial arrangements made by private organizations and individuals. Evacuees who are placed by FEMA will be registered in FEMA's system. It is important that evacuees placed through unofficial arrangements also register with FEMA. FEMA has a Teleregistry system for remote registration. Evacuees may call 1-800-621-3362.

Home State Coverage

Evacuees who are currently enrolled in Medicaid in their home state are eligible for services in California. Providers can continue to bill the evacuee's home state for services covered by that State (including pharmacy services) rendered, if eligibility in that Program is known.

Medi-Cal Program Coverage

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is taking steps to ensure that Medi-Cal eligible individuals who have been displaced by the hurricane and are in California permanently or until they can return home, are brought into Medi-Cal quickly using a streamlined process. Evacuees who arrive in California having little or no documentation of income or assets will be able to self-certify this information with a signed affidavit, and their eligibility will be assessed immediately on the same day. They will be provided with immediate proof of Medi-Cal eligibility so they may access health care services immediately. These evacuee eligibles will have the full scope of Medi-Cal program benefits. Providers may bill the Medi-Cal program for services rendered to these Medi-Cal eligibles.

Aid code 65 will be used by county social services departments to track information about Katrina evacuees enrolled in Medi-Cal. Aid code 65 does not apply to Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) and Family PACT (Planning, Access, Care and Treatment) recipients.

Additional Information

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available. If you have questions, please contact the EDS Telephone Service Center at 1-800-541-5555. Telephone operators will record your questions and responses will be provided via the Medi-Cal Web site (www.medi-cal.ca.gov) and, as appropriate, in future *Medi-Cal Updates*.