

P A T H

Department of Prevention, Assistance, Transition, and Health Access

BULLETIN NO. 01-16F

FROM Eileen I. Elliott, Commissioner
for the Secretary

DATE June 27, 2001

SUBJECTS Medicaid Eligibility for Women With Breast or Cervical Cancer, and Expansion of
VScript Program

CHANGES ADOPTED EFFECTIVE 7/1/01

INSTRUCTIONS

Maintain Manual - See instructions below.

**Proposed Regulation - Retain bulletin
and attachments until you receive
Manual Maintenance Bulletin: 01-16F**

MANUAL REFERENCE(S)

Information or Instructions - Retain until _____

M132
M200
M302
3203

This bulletin proposes changes to Medicaid and VScript policy as required by the fiscal year 2002 budget act, H. 485 (2001), as enacted by the Vermont General Assembly. The bulletin is filed using the expedited rule-making process authorized by the budget act. The proposed changes are summarized below.

Changes to Medicaid Program Eligibility Rules

The budget act amends Vermont's Medicaid eligibility rules for health care benefits as authorized by federal law (42 U.S.C. §1396a(aa)) by adding coverage for women with breast or cervical cancer, including precancerous conditions. In order to be eligible for Medicaid coverage under this option, women must be screened by the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP). *Ladies First* is the NBCCEDP in Vermont. A woman also must be under age 65 and not otherwise eligible for SSI-related or ANFC-related Medicaid. By meeting these criteria, women will be eligible for the new Medicaid coverage group even though their income or resources would make them otherwise ineligible.

This expansion of health care benefits supports other women's health care initiatives underway through Vermont's Agency of Human Services. Most notably, it furthers the breast and cervical cancer screening program for women with limited income, *Ladies First*, offered by the Division of Health Surveillance at the Vermont Department of Health. Through the partnership of the Departments of Health and Prevention, Assistance, Transition, and Health Access (PATH), comprehensive treatment will now be available for women with cancer. Coverage under this category continues following the screening and diagnosis for as long as the woman's treating health professional verifies the woman is in need of cancer treatment services.

Changes in the VScript Program

The budget act also increases benefits for VScript beneficiaries with household income greater than 175 percent and equal to or less than 225 percent of the federal poverty level to secure for maintenance treatment drugs the discount available in the VHAP-Pharmacy Discount Program proportionate to the beneficiary's coinsurance payment, effective July 1, 2001.

Specific Changes to Policy Pages

- M132 With the approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules women eligible for the new optional categorically needy coverage for women with breast or cervical cancer will have their eligibility reviewed every 12 months.
- M200 P.5 Adds a new optional categorically needy coverage category for women with breast or cervical cancer, including precancerous conditions.
- M302.28 P.2 Adds a new optional categorically needy coverage category for women with breast or cervical cancer, including precancerous conditions.
- 3203 Increases benefits for VScript beneficiaries with household income greater than 175 percent and equal to or less than 225 percent of the federal poverty level to secure for maintenance treatment drugs the discount available in the VHAP-Pharmacy Discount Program proportionate to the beneficiary's coinsurance payment.

Vertical lines in the left margin indicate significant changes. Dotted lines at the left indicate changes to clarify, rearrange, correct references, etc., without changing regulation content.

Manual Maintenance

Remove

M132 (99-15F)
M200 P.5 (99-15)
M302.28 P.2 (01-07F)
3203 (99-24)

Insert

M132 (01-16)
M200 P.5 (01-16)
M302.28 P.2 (01-16)
3203 (01-16)