

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)		
	Chapter No./Name	00 – Miscellaneous Issuances Manual		
	Part No./Name	E. Executive Bulletins		
	Section No./Name	E – 2000 – Executive Bulletins		
	Document No./Name	E-2268 Louisiana Health Insurance Premium Payments Program (LaHIPP) - Formerly Named GHIPP-Group Health Insurance Premium Payment Program		
	Dates	Issue	September 22, 2003	Effective

The attached document from the Bureau of Health Services Financing (BHSF) provides information regarding the Louisiana Health Insurance Premium Payments Program (LaHIPP). This is the new name for the program formerly known as GHIPP-Group Health Insurance Premium Payment Program.

Please note that BHSF has a workgroup looking at, in part, ways to increase enrollment and streamline and simply the process of enrollment. As BHSF revises forms/policy that impact OFS, appropriate OFS policy will be revised to reflect the changes. Until that time, continue to use the GHIPP forms that are in Chapter 4 to advise clients of the program and to make referrals to BHSF.

Attachment



M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

July 25, 2003



David W. Hood
SECRETARY

Medicaid Administrative Memorandum
Number 17-2003

TO: Administrative and Agency Personnel

FROM: Ben A. Bearden, Director /s
Bureau of Health Services Financing

RE: **Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (LaHIPP)**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information on the current status of Louisiana Medicaid's Health Insurance Premium Payment Program. **LaHIPP** (Louisiana Health Insurance Premium Payments) is the **new name** for this program which has been known by the acronym GHIPP--Group Health Insurance Premium Payment. Enhancements to LaHIPP are also part of a package of Medicaid HIFA (Health Insurance Flexibility & Accountability) waivers which a statewide workgroup under the direction of DHH is working on to reduce the number of uninsured Louisiana residents. (You may have seen some outreach materials on these HIFA waivers referred to as LaACCESS.)

We are genuinely interested in your feedback and ideas on how we can increase enrollment in LaHIPP as well as ideas on how to streamline and simplify the process of enrollment as we begin to enhance and expand the program. These are things you can anticipate seeing within the next several months:

- Revisions to the LaCHIP and other application forms to ask questions relative to the availability of employer-based health insurance.
- New flyers to explaining the LaHIPP program.
- Training for Medicaid employees and other stakeholders.
- Consideration of the role of Medicaid Analysts in identifying cases for follow-up, collecting information and selecting cases for referral.
- Additional HIPP staff, either in regions or in State Office. Currently, we have only one person to handle the HIPP program.
- Addition of a HIPP indicator to MEDS.
- Issuance of additional policy and procedures.

States are allowed to use Medicaid dollars to pay for the cost of employer sponsored health insurance premiums for Medicaid and LaCHIP recipients when doing so is "cost effective." Two of the goals of HIFA are 1) to increase the number of individuals with health insurance coverage within current Medicaid and SCHIP resources and 2) to maximize private health insurance coverage options.

Medicaid Administrative Memo No. 17-2003
Page 2

Some elements of the HIFA waiver package are not likely to be operational until July 2004 at the earliest. **However, we believe that we can begin to achieve the same goals as a HIFA waiver immediately by modifying and expanding our current LaHIPP Program.** It is anticipated that a moderate number of parents who have children covered by Medicaid/LaCHIP can be insured through premium assistance initiatives. For example, the State of Iowa currently provides coverage for 3000 otherwise ineligible parents, in addition to 5000 eligible children through their HIPP Program.

Another very important benefit of purchasing private insurance for Medicaid and SCHIP eligible children is that we believe it will also provide access to physicians who may not accept Medicaid. In addition, the employer shares in the cost for providing care, rather than the cost being the sole responsibility of state and federal governments.

If you have questions or suggestions about LaHIPP, please refer them to Jackie Porta at (225) 342 9463, jporta@dhh.state.la.us.