

Alabama Medicaid Agency Covers New Eligibility Group for Breast and Cervical Cancer Effective October 1, 2001

On October 24, 2000, President Clinton signed the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000. (PL106-354) The Act creates an "optional" Medicaid eligibility category for low income women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through a federal screening program. Eligibility is limited to individuals who:

- Are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid,
- Are under age 65,
- Have been screened for breast and cervical cancer through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program and have been determined to need treatment for breast or cervical cancer,
- Have no creditable health insurance coverage as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

The Alabama Legislature passed a bill to enact the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act.

Beginning October 1, 2001, any woman who meets the eligibility requirements for Medicaid pursuant to this act shall be entitled to medically necessary treatment for breast or cervical cancer and any other medically necessary Medicaid services covered under the Medicaid State Plan for the period of eligibility.

The period of eligibility for coverage under this act is limited to the period during her course of treatment as determined by the medical professional responsible for the cancer treatment.

General Medicaid eligibility criteria including residency and citizenship must be met.

Treatment under this act is limited to medically necessary treatment consistent with optimal standards of medical practice. Experimental treatments will not be covered.

Eligibility will be determined by Medicaid following appropriate application procedures and shall include verification of Centers for Disease Control screening and diagnosis plan of treatment.

This act becomes effective October 1, 2001. No coverage will be provided under this act for any period prior to the date of the Centers for Disease Control screening and diagnosis.

Contact DeborahPennington@adph.state.al.us