

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES/DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS)
PHYSICIAN REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM
Information Bulletin

HISTORY OF UNCLAIMED TRAUMA FUNDS

Despite the continued difficulties reported by trauma hospitals to maintain required in-hospital surgeons and other specialists, each year PSIP trauma funds go unspent. Trauma Fund balances cannot be rolled over to the next year therefore, any remaining funds are transferred to the EMS Fund for distribution. The following is a history of the trauma funds remaining unspent in the last three fiscal years:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Unclaimed Funds</u>
FY 90/91	\$2.8 million
FY 91/92	\$1.1 million
FY 92/93	\$1.4 million

In addition, we have discovered that on some trauma patients, the program is only receiving one physician claim when there frequently could have been 4-5 claims. Also, the TPS # is commonly left blank and the inappropriate fund, i.e., EMS Fund, is marked. This results in a 30% rather than 65% reimbursement. Physicians at trauma hospitals are strongly encouraged to appropriately bill the PSIP Trauma Fund for all eligible trauma patients.

DECEMBER DEADLINE APPROACHING

All claims for the period of July 1, 1993 to June 30, 1994 (FY 93/94) must be received or postmarked no later than December 31, 1994. There are no exception to this cutoff date.

Status of FY 94/95 Funding

The 1994/95 allocation for physicians services are as follows:

EMS	DISCRETIONARY
\$2,636,358	\$2,402,015

This represents a decrease of approximately \$18,500 for the EMS fund and \$25,200 for the discretionary fund compared to FY 93/94 allocations. The OB Call-back fund will be eliminated for FY 94/95.

We are preparing the FY 93/94 PSIP and Trauma Program packets. This information will be forwarded to you in the first week of January. Please do not submit claims for FY 94/95 (July 1, 1994 to date) until you receive new enrollment forms and instruction packets.

FY 93/94 RAISE UP ANTICIPATED

There has been an unexpected drop in claim submissions for FY 93/94. Claims received by AIA as of September 23, 1994 is 90,856 as compared to approximately 134,200 last year at this time. If submissions continue to be low, it is likely that there will be a raise up for EMS claims at the end of the year.

The low claim submission rate may be attributed to the new Point of Service capability provided through Medi-Cal. This allows physician offices and billing agents to confirm Medi-Cal eligibility more efficiently.

FY 94/95 PROGRAM CHANGES

CHIP Form:

No revisions will be made to the CHIP Form dated 12/93; therefore, claims can be prepared immediately and held for mailing until 2/1/95.

Earlier Claim Submission and Year End Deadlines:

Claims will be accepted as of **February 1, 1995**. The year end deadline will be moved forward to **November 30, 1995**.

Question & Answers Forum:

We are planning to conduct an open forum in February 1995 to respond to program questions. Further information regarding this open session will be provided at a later date.

REMINDERS AND UPDATES

■ **HCFA-1500 OMISSIONS:**

The inpatient Admission and Discharge dates are frequently missing from the HCFA-1500. Missing dates or admit and discharge dates that are equal (except for expired patients) will result in rejection.

■ **TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGES:**

Due to the relocation of the Los Angeles County EMS Agency to the Department of Health Services--Ferguson Complex, the following phone numbers have changed:

Carol Gunter, Asst Director (213) 890-7539

Larry Smith, Physician Reimbursement Coordinator (213) 890-7559

NOTICE

DEADLINE SUBMISSION FOR 1993-94 PSIP CLAIMS:

DECEMBER 31, 1993 at 5:00 P.M.

There are no exceptions to this cut off date. FY 1992-93 claims should be mailed to the following address:

American Insurance Administrators (AIA)

P.O. Box 34759

Los Angeles, CA 90034-0759

AIA Hotline Number:

1-800-303-5242