

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

**\$5.2 Million Deficit Hits
 Fund for Emergency
 Room & On-Call
 Specialist Services for
 Indigents**

Los Angeles County's Physician Services for Indigents Program (PSIP) for emergency services is expected to exhaust available funds for patients treated sometime in April.



For services provided after the fund is exhausted, the PSIP program will no longer be able to reimburse physicians providing emergency services at private hospitals for the remainder of fiscal year 2004-05.

As a partial solution, the Board of Supervisors approved the use of \$1.4 million in Measure B funds to back fill reimbursement for trauma services only.

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) originally recommended the use of Measure B funds to backfill the entire deficit. However, the Board expressed concern that the State has continued to cut funding for trauma and emergency services and as such, the shortfall is a State problem. In addition, Board members opined that Measure B was not intended to supplant State funds.

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**Billing Program
 Updates/Reminders**

öDelay in Payments -

There were initial delays in issuing payments and remittance advices due to funding issues and the upgrading of the system. The first payments were sent the week of 2/7/2005 and will be ongoing.



öMedicare Bills - AIA will hold claims

for patients that are 65 or older with a social security number, until a Medicare Match programming is completed which is targeted for mid year.

öConsolidate Charges -

Physicians are required to submit ALL charges for a days services on one bill, including surgeries that are performed on the same day.

öHospitalization from ED - This

program pays only for hospitalization services when patients are admitted from the emergency department (ED).

öSupporting Documentation -

The County, through contracted adjudication agency, American Insurance Administrators (AIA) will routinely request billers to provide supporting documentation (e.g. ED notes, pathology reports, operative reports etc.) in order, to validate a claim.

\$5.2 Million Deficit Hits Fund for On-Call Specialist Services for Indigents

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The Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC), the Los Angeles County Medical Association (LACMA), and the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Directors Agency (LACEMDA) are jointly advocating temporary solutions as well as new legislative initiatives.

DHS has prepared a detailed report to the Board of Supervisors highlighting the decline in State funding and the dramatic impact the deficit will have on the ability of private hospitals to obtain necessary physician coverage to maintain trauma and emergency services. Discussion with the Board and other legislative alternatives continue to be pursued.

Physicians should continue to submit all claims. This is important for two reasons:
- **If funding is secured, claims will be paid and all submission deadlines will remain in effect.**
- **Documentation of indigent care is essential to support efforts to obtain future funding**

2004/05 PSIP Reimbursement Rates

The rates for fiscal year 2004/05 have been finalized. There will be no reduction in the percentages and payments; the fiscal year 2003/04 payment schedule remains in effect. However, due to a funding shortfall, claims will be paid on a first submit, first paid basis of clean, complete claims only.



New Trauma Hospital Designated in L.A. County

California Hospital Medical Center (CAL) became a Trauma Facility on December 1, 2004.

Physicians providing trauma services at CAL are eligible for reimbursement at the

trauma rate. Any physician caring for designated trauma patients at CAL who is unaware of the program should contact the EMS Agency at (323) 890-7521 for details.



PSIP/TRAUMA Enrollment Packets

The enrollment packets for fiscal year 2004/05 have been mailed. The providers and billing companies can also obtain the necessary enrollment forms from the Los Angeles County Web site at:



www.ladhs.org/ems

Mail completed forms to:
American Insurance Administrators
P.O. BOX 34759
Los Angeles, CA 90034

FYI

Do you have questions regarding your claims?

Physician Claims Hotline
(800) 303-5242

