



Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
General Provider Transmittal No. 78
January 13, 2010

TO: Maryland Healthy Smiles Providers
FROM: Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director
Office of Health Services
Susan J. Tucker
RE: Coverage of Interpreter Services for Medicaid Recipients

NOTE: **Please ensure that the appropriate staff members in your Organizations are informed of the content of this transmittal.**

The purpose of this transmittal is to remind all providers of the requirement that foreign language or hearing impaired interpreter service must be supplied at no cost to any Medicaid recipient that requests it. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 "No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." As such, any entity that supplies health care services directly to the public and receives payment for Medicaid recipients must comply by making its services equally accessible to persons with limited English proficiency and/or hearing impairment. Costs incurred for providing interpreter services are not eligible for reimbursement by the Medicaid Program. Interpreter services can be supplied in whatever manner that adequately establishes communication with the recipient. These services do not always need to be supplied in person; telephonic exchange may be sufficient in many circumstances.

For questions about the information in this transmittal, please the Maryland Healthy Smiles Provider Services center at 1.888.696.9598.