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State of California-Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

DATE: July 15, 2010

MMCD All Plan Letter #10-010

TO: ALL MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE HEALTH PLANS

SUBJECT: REINSTATEMENT OF OPTOMETRY SERVICES

PURPOSE:

This All Plan Letter (APL) provides updated information on the reinstatement of optometry services for certain Medi-Cal populations. As required by ABX3 5 (Chapter 20, Statutes of 2009), effective July 1, 2009, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) discontinued the optional Medi-Cal optometry services for adults 21 years of age or older who are not in nursing facilities and excluding pregnant women. Through this APL, DHCS reinstates those optometry services, retroactive to July 1, 2009, to comply with federal law, which requires states to provide coverage for Optometry services, whether performed by a physician or optometrist, if the state has previously covered payments for these services, and the State Plan includes in its definition of "physician services" the type of services that an optometrist is legally authorized to perform.

If you have any questions regarding this APL, please contact David Merritt, Health Program Specialist I, at (916) 552-9687 or david.merritt@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Tanya Homman, Chief
Medi-Cal Managed Care Division