



HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS
Division of Medical Assistance Programs

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To: Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Site Contacts

From: Don Ross, Manager
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Subject: Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) and Incarcerated Individuals

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) established the HPE process to open a new path to ongoing eligibility for all uninsured individuals through hospitals. This includes individuals who are non-patients (*i.e.*, walk-in clients who are not seeking hospital services, but the HPE determination only).

We understand that some hospitals have been asked to perform HPE determinations for incarcerated patients. Even though OHA encourages providing HPE services to both patients and non-patients, the HPE process should not be used to provide temporary eligibility for inmates of jails or prisons.

OHA still requires a full Medicaid/CHIP application (OHA 7210) to determine eligibility for incarcerated people admitted for inpatient treatment. The same is true for inmates who are about to be released.

What should you do?

Please help us ensure health care coverage for as many uninsured Oregonians as possible by making HPE services available to your community members, both patients and non-patients, to the greatest extent possible.

If you are asked to provide HPE determinations to incarcerated patients, please explain that OHA cannot use this process for those who are incarcerated, and provide them with a full OHA 7210 to complete at admission. OHA will be reminding local and state correctional facilities of this policy soon.

We appreciate the important role hospitals serve in our communities. Hospitals are there to support us when we need our most urgent health care needs met. The HPE process allows qualified hospitals to play an even bigger role by helping increase access to health care, whether care is needed in a hospital or not. We are very grateful that you have joined OHA in taking on this new role.

Questions?

For more information about this program, [visit the HPE Web page](#). If you have any questions, please email us at hpe.info@state.or.us.

Thank you for supporting the Oregon Health Plan and the Hospital Presumptive Eligibility process.

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