

Notes on Changes to the Department of Health Billing Guide FY12

Programmatic Changes: We made a number of changes to the FY 2012 Health Billing Guide to reflect programmatic restructuring that will occur in the coming year. Throughout the Guide, we removed references to the following programs, which will no longer be offered by the Department of Health as of July 1, 2011:

- Community Health and Nurse Home Visits (Nurse Family Partnership is listed instead)
- Prenatal Care
- School-Based Health Centers

Delinquent Accounts (Page 5): In response to recommendations from the State Health Administrative consultant, we modified our language and clarified discussion of “bad debt” and “delinquent accounts.” The Guide now specifies that our Department follows the guidelines for the NC Debt Setoff program.

Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) / WiseWoman (Page 8): This section was changed to state that under-insured women, as well as uninsured, are potentially eligible for these programs.

Family Planning (Page 9): We added text to the Family Planning page to highlight the program’s added confidentiality options, and to make clear that under this provision a patient’s sliding scale eligibility is based only on the patient’s own income.

TB Services (Page 13): To encourage non-Buncombe residents to seek TB services from their own county health department, the comment on TB services to out-of-county residents now reads:

“All local health departments in North Carolina coordinate TB prevention and control efforts in their county. To better ensure continuity of care, out-of-county residents are strongly encouraged to work with their local county health department. We are happy to help clients contact their health department to arrange for needed services.”

Federal Poverty Guidelines (Page 17): In spring of 2010, the federal government did not change the federal poverty level, which is the basis for our Sliding Fee Scale. However, the federal government did announce a small increase to the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) in February 2011. To better accommodate such mid-year changes in the future, without needing a formal approval process, we added this text to the Guide:

“For services that are eligible for Sliding Fee Scale payment, the Department of Health uses the current HHS Federal Poverty Guidelines as published in the *Federal Register* (see <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/>). These scales may be subject to change during the fiscal year.”

Fee Information (Page 21): We have added wording to “Appendix 2: Service Fees” that we will provide a copy of fees upon request, and we have listed a phone number for the Accounting Unit for such requests.