



JEB BUSH, GOVERNOR

ALAN LEVINE, SECRETARY

July 19, 2004

Dear Hospice Provider:

The 2003 Florida Legislature appropriated resources to allow for payment of "bed hold" days for hospice-enrolled beneficiaries residing in a nursing facility. Medicaid will pay up to eight days for each hospital stay and up to a maximum of 16 days for therapeutic leave for each state fiscal year (July 1 through June 30).

The General Appropriations Act (HB 1835) enacted by the Florida Legislature for FY 2004-2005 instructs Medicaid to change bed hold policy.

Effective July 1, 2004, the bed hold policy will change as follows: "Medicaid will not pay for bed hold when a Hospice resident goes to the hospital or on therapeutic leave if **5 percent** or more of certified Medicaid beds are available in the resident's nursing facility."

The methodology for determining occupancy will remain the same. The percent occupancy of Medicaid beds is determined based on the nursing facility's occupancy rate for the previous quarter of the year.

The Hospice Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook will be revised to reflect this information. You can access the Handbook on the Internet at: [www.floridamedicaid.consultec-inc.com/index.jsp](http://www.floridamedicaid.consultec-inc.com/index.jsp)

If you have any questions please call your area Medicaid office.

Sincerely,

Steven A Grigas  
Acting Deputy Secretary for Medicaid

cc: Cam Fentriss, FHPC  
Medicaid Area Office



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