



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DISEASE CONTROL & EPIDEMIOLOGY



DAVID L. RILEY
DIRECTOR

LYDIA MIKHAIL
DIVISION MANAGER
DISEASE CONTROL & EPIDEMIOLOGY

Christopher Ried, MD
Medical Director
17th St Testing, Treatment and Care Clinics

MAILING ADDRESS:
1725 W. 17TH STREET
SANTA ANA, CA 92706

TELEPHONE: (714) 834-7991
FAX: (714) 834-8395
E-MAIL: cried@ochca.com

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Dear Patient,

This letter is to inform you of upcoming changes in the clinic's eligibility process and an opportunity to expand your health care options.

The Ryan White program was developed in 1990 to provide care to persons living with HIV and AIDS who had no other way to get services. The program provides money to areas all over the United States as "funds of last resort." This means that funding can only be used when there is no other source to provide services (for example, Medi-Cal, private insurance, or Medicare).

Under a new 1115 Medicaid Waiver Program, Orange County has and will continue its expansion of healthcare services to people who traditionally have not qualified for Medi-Cal or the County's Medical Services Initiative (MSI) program. This new Low Income Health Program (or LIHP) has been folded into the MSI program. LIHP provides services similar to Medi-Cal to qualified individuals. We believe that about 900 clients seen at the 17th Street Care or Laguna Beach Community Clinic (LBCC) will be eligible for this new program.

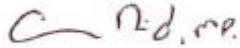
Because the Ryan White Program is "funds of last resort," individuals who are eligible for MSI must have their care paid for by MSI, not with Ryan White funds. Therefore, 17th Street Care will soon begin screening for MSI eligibility as part of the regular eligibility screening and recertification processes. To make sure that eligibility screening is done for all programs for all clients, 17th Street Care will begin "one-stop" eligibility screening. The process will include:

- Eligibility screening for all programs that cover medical services, Ryan White support services, and/or medications for persons living with HIV/AIDS (for example, Ryan White, MSI, Medi-Cal, Medicare, ADAP). After the initial screening, follow up for recertification will be done at least every six months.
- Clients who may be eligible for Medi-Cal or MSI must submit an application. Our eligibility screeners will assist you in completing the MSI application. Our eligibility process does not include assistance completing the Medi-Cal application. However, staff will help direct you to a location to complete your Medi-Cal application.

At this time, you will not need to change care providers. The only change is the source of payment for your medical care.

Please read the frequently asked questions (FAQ) document for more information. If you have questions after reading the FAQ document, please feel free to ask to speak with your case manager or call (714) 834-7991 and ask to speak with the Officer of the Day.

Sincerely,



Christopher Ried, MD
Medical Director



Irene Magana
Program Manager