



Division of Behavioral Health Services

Division of Compliance

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TO: RBHA CEOs and TRBHA Directors

FROM: Laura K. Nelson, M.D.
Deputy Director

Margaret McLaughlin
Acting Division Chief of Compliance

SUBJECT: **POLICY CLARIFICATION: Medication coverage for Non-Title XIX/XXI Medicare eligible persons determined to have SMI**

DATE: October 21, 2011

This memorandum is intended to clarify the responsibilities of Tribal and Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (T/RBHAs) and T/RBHA providers in meeting the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services' (ADHS/DBHS) expectations regarding requirements in the following ADHS/DBHS policies:

- [Provider Manual Section 3.5, Third Party Liability and Coordination of Benefits](#); and
- [Provider Manual Section 3.21, Service Package for Non-Title XIX/XXI Persons Determined to have a Serious Mental Illness \(SMI\)](#)

Provider Manual Section 3.21, *Service Package for Non-Title XIX/XXI Persons Determined to have a Serious Mental Illness (SMI)*, describes the medication benefit for Non-Title XIX/XXI persons determined to have SMI, and PM Section 3.5, *Third Party Liability and Coordination of Benefits*, describes ADHS/DBHS' expectations for the coordination of benefits that must occur for behavioral health recipients with third party coverage, including Medicare. The intent of PM Section 3.5 is to ensure access to benefits in an equitable manner for Non-Title XIX/XXI, SMI persons, regardless of whether or not Non-Title XIX/XXI, SMI persons have third party coverage. However, Provider Manual Section 3.5 does not explicitly define ADHS/DBHS' expectations for coordinating benefits when Non-Title XIX/XXI, SMI persons enrolled in Medicare Part D do not have coverage of medications during the Part D coverage gap (also referred to as the "donut hole"). Effective immediately, T/RBHAs must cover medications for Non-Title XIX/XXI, SMI persons, who are enrolled in Medicare Part D, during the coverage gap for medications on the [ADHS/DBHS Non-Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#).

Questions regarding this clarification may be directed to the ADHS/DBHS Policy Office at (602) 364-4670.