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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 91 LCM-226

Date: December 27, 1991

Division: Medical Assistance

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Confidentiality of Physicians Enrolled in the HIV Enhanced
Fees for Physicians Program (HIV-EFP)

ATTACHMENTS: Where to Get Help Guide
(Not Available On-Line)

As described in 91 LCM-98, the Enhanced Fees For Physicians Program (HIV-EFP) was implemented on July 1, 1991. Under this Program enhanced Medicaid fees are paid to participating physicians who treat persons with HIV disease. In order to participate in the HIV-EFP, physicians must meet special eligibility and practice criteria and sign an agreement with the Department of Social Services.

Under this agreement the Department has agreed that "the names of physicians who enroll in the HIV-EFP Program will not be disclosed to any agency or individual outside of the NYS Department of Social Services and the AIDS Institute of the Department of Health without prior approval of the participating physician except as may be otherwise required by Law." This policy recognizes that private practitioners are concerned that they not be identified as "AIDS doctors" which can have negative implications for their private practices. The Department, therefore, requests that physicians who have the specialty code 249 not be identified to the public as participating in the HIV-EFP.

The importance of maintaining the confidentiality of this information should be shared with all those local district employees who access provider information through hard copy or fiche reports from MMIS or computer screens where MMIS provider specialty information is displayed.

In order to assist recipients who request the names of physicians who treat persons with HIV, we suggest you refer to the enclosed "Where To Get Help" and direct inquiries to the general AIDS 1-800 numbers or to your local AIDS Community Services Program.

Date December 27, 1991

Trans. No. 91 LCM-226

Page No. 2

Respect for the confidentiality of physicians participating in the HIV-EFP is crucial to physician participation in the program. If you should have any questions regarding this policy, please call Marcia Rao at (518) 473-5840. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Jo-Ann A. Costantino
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Medical Assistance