



**Gold Coast
Health Plan**SM
A Public Entity

DATE: July 28, 2011
TO: Gold Coast Health Plan Participating Optometrists
FROM: Paul R. Roberts
Director of Provider Relations and Provider Contracting
RE: Medi-Cal Vision Benefits

The purpose of this memorandum is to address issues surrounding vision benefits for Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are enrolled as Members of Gold Coast Health Plan and to clarify services they may be entitled to receive, under our contract with the State of California.

On July 1, 2009 the state excluded several optional benefits, including optometry services, from coverage for adults under the Medi-Cal program. Effective July 26, 2010, California reinstated optometry services as a Medi-Cal covered benefit for beneficiaries 21 years of age or older. However, this benefit is limited for adults in that it only includes routine eye examinations, office visits, and certain diagnostic, ancillary and supplemental procedures used for the evaluation of the visual system. **Services relating to the supply, replacement or repair of eyeglasses and other eye appliances will remain non-covered benefits for adult Medi-Cal beneficiaries.**

There are a few exceptions to the new rules. Medi-Cal will only pay for eyeglasses, contact lenses or other things to help patients see better for the following people:

- Pregnant Women (Only if the doctor says that not having eyeglasses will be harmful to the baby or pregnancy)
- Children Or People Less Than 21 Years Old Who Have Full Medi-Cal
- People Who Live In Nursing Homes

It should be noted that the services of new eyeglasses or to fix old glasses every two years will continue to be available for beneficiaries **under 21 years of age.**

To learn more about this benefit please call the state at 916-552-9539 or go to the state's website at <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov> or <http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov>. You may also call Gold Coast Health Plan at 888-301-1228.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter and for helping us provide the best possible care to our Members.