ALERT DATE: April 8, 2020

This e-mail is being sent to professionals who are interested in receiving benefits updates regarding older adults and people with disabilities.

Hello! I hope you are doing well!

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) issued a notice today regarding expedited application processing for COVID-19 patients. They are encouraging you to assist individuals who are **uninsured who need testing or treatment for COVID-19** by helping them apply for medical benefits through www.ABE.illinois.gov. Once the application has been submitted, immediately send an e-mail to HFS.Priority19@illinois.gov with the application tracking number and a brief description of the client situation. Please assist a consumer in submitting an application even if you are unsure whether the COVID-19 involved consumer may be eligible for medical coverage. Here's a recap of the instructions for consumers who need testing or treatment for COVID-19:

Medical Application Process for Uninsured Consumers who Need Testing or Treatment for COVID-19
- Assist uninsured consumer apply for medical benefits through www.ABE.Illinois.gov . Answer all questions completely
- Submit application even if documentation (income verification) is not readily available and you are unsure if the consumer is eligible for medical benefits
- Write down application tracking number
- Immediately send an e-mail to HFS.Priority19@illinois.gov with application tracking number and a brief description of the client situation

This process is only for individuals who are uninsured, need COVID-19 testing or treatment. Please do not use this process for any other situations!

On another note, HFS is working with the Feds on implementing new policies to simplify the medical application process. One of the changes would be to process applications for medical coverage without requiring documents that verify eligibility- such as proof of income. If you are assisting someone in completing a medical application and do not have the verifications readily available, submit the application anyways. Please complete the application completely!

If you would like more information, please refer to the memo below:

Memo- "Applying for Medicaid and Other Medical Programs During the COVID-19 Emergency":
https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/notices/Pages/prn200407b.aspx