

**TO:** Local District Commissioners, Temporary Assistance Directors, Medicaid Directors and Legal Staff

**FROM:** Judith Arnold  
Director, Division of Coverage and Enrollment

**SUBJECT:** Elimination of Automated Finger Imaging System (AFIS) Requirement for Medicaid Eligibility

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2009

**CONTACT PERSON:** Local District Liaison  
Upstate (518)474-8887 NYC (212)417-4500

This GIS message is to inform local department of social services of the elimination of the Automated Finger Imaging System (AFIS) requirement for Medicaid applicants and recipients.

Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2009 eliminates the AFIS requirement for Medicaid eligibility. Effective July 1, 2009, local departments of social services are no longer required to finger-image Medicaid-only applicants and recipients.

Please be aware that the Photo-ID requirement for individuals who are applying for or receiving Medicaid remains in effect. However, individuals who are not exempt from the Photo-ID requirement for Medicaid and do not have their photo stored in the AFIS database must not be called into the district solely to have their picture taken. The recipient may fulfill this requirement at the next time he/she has local district contact, whenever that may occur.

#### Temporary Assistance

AFIS remains a requirement for Temporary Assistance (TA) as well as for Food Stamp (FS) cases. The Medicaid portion of any TA case or application must continue with Medicaid unchanged or be separately determined for Medicaid eligibility as appropriate, if the A/R's noncompliance with the AFIS requirement results in a TA discontinuance or denial.

#### Systems

Specific Upstate Systems changes for Medicaid are outlined in the June 2009 WMS/CNS Coordinator Letter.

They include deleting CNS notice reason code F21 (U84 has NOT been deleted as stated in the June 2009 WMS/CNS Coordinator Letter). MA Insert Language for TA Denials M88 and F88 has been changed to 753 - MA Separate Determination and TA Closings M88 and F88 language has been changed to 821 - MA Continues Unchanged.

NYC code M88 will be deleted.

AFIS exemption indicator code "9" (Exempted Long Term Care) (Inpatient) (MA Only) will be disabled with the 2009.3 migration in October 2009.

AFIS Update Number 230 issued May 26, 2009 gives guidance to AFIS workstation operators regarding this change.

Please contact your local district liaison at the number listed above with any questions.