



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Med-QUEST Division
Health Care Services Branch
P. O. Box 700190
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

December 21, 2010

MEMORANDUM

MEMO NOS.
ACS M10-18
ADM-1018 (QUEST)
ADMX-1022 (QExA)

TO: Hospice Agencies
QUEST and QUEST Expanded Access (QExA) Health Plans

FROM: Kenneth S. Fink, MD, MGA, MPH
Med-QUEST Division Administrator



SUBJECT: HOSPICE CARE FOR CHILDREN RELATED TO AFFORDABLE CARE ACT
(ACA)

The Med-QUEST Division (MQD) issues this memo to provide guidance regarding provision of hospice care for children in the Medicaid program. Hospice care is a covered service under both the QUEST and QExA programs. In order to qualify for the hospice service, a physician must certify that the eligible person is within the last six (6) months of life.

The Affordable Care Act does not change the criteria for receiving hospice services; however, prior to enactment of the new law, curative treatment of the terminal illness ceased upon election of the hospice benefit. Effective January 1, 2011, hospice services are available to children in both the QUEST and QExA programs without forgoing any other service to which the child is entitled under Medicaid for treatment of the terminal condition. These services and supports may include pain and symptom management and family counseling provided by specially trained hospice staff.

Implementation of this new provision is vitally important for children and their families seeking a blended package of curative and palliative services.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Kathy Ishihara, Nurse Consultant, at (808) 692-8159 or via email at kishihara@medicaid.dhs.state.hi.us.