

Translation/Interpretation Services: Medicaid Provider Responsibilities

March 2, 2012

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and federal regulations implementing Title VI prohibit exclusion of individuals on the grounds of race, color, or national origin from participation in programs that receive federal funding.

As recipients of federal funding through Medicaid payments which are, in part, federally funded, enrolled providers may not employ practices that have a discriminatory impact on individuals.

Medicaid-enrolled providers are obligated to provide access to health care services, including language interpreting services, when needed, for patients who have Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has published a document that includes a four-factor analysis that guides providers through the process of determining the extent of their obligation to offer LEP services, and development of a plan to meet the needs of the LEP population. This document, "*Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons*", is available in Volume 68, Number 153 of the Federal Register, published Friday, August 8, 2003, and available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2003-08-08/pdf/03-20179.pdf>.

Questions?

Contact ACS' Provider Inquiry at 907.644.6800, option 1 or 800.770.5650, option 1, 1 (toll-free in Alaska).

