

Carolyn Ross, Manager  
Medical Program  
Children, Adults and Families

DeAnna Hartwig, Acting Administrator  
Office of Federal Resource, Reporting and  
Financial Eligibility, SPD

Authorized Signature

**Number:** SS-IM-04-022  
**Issue Date:** July 19, 2004

**Topic:** Premium Sponsorships

**Subject:** Effect of Premium Sponsorships on OHP-OPU clients

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |                          |                               |                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | All DHS employees             | <input type="checkbox"/> | County Mental Health Directors       |
| X                        | Area Agencies on Aging        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health Services                      |
| X                        | Children, Adults and Families | X                        | Seniors and People with Disabilities |

**Message:**

Many OHP-OPU clients have premiums paid for them by friends, family, or sponsoring agencies such as county health departments or other medical care providers. OHP-OPU clients are usually aware when friends or family pay their premiums. They may be unaware when medical providers or other third parties pay their premiums.

It is important to educate OHP-OPU clients they are responsible for ensuring their premiums are paid timely.

For some clients, an anonymous sponsor makes the payment on their behalf. Because they did not pay the premium and were not disqualified, the client gets into the habit of ignoring the OHP disqualification notices. If the premium payments from the sponsor stop, the client may be disqualified from receiving medical benefits for six months, and ultimately may not be able to receive medical benefits until OHP-OPU reopens to new applicants.

Change in wording on Oregon Health Plan Premium Billing Statement

The message is now going out that clients must understand they are responsible for their premium payments. Effective July 1, 2004, a sentence has been added to the billing statement:

*“You are responsible for your premium payments even if a friend, relative or community organization has paid your premium for you before.”*

### New Rules for Sponsors

Premium Sponsorship is not a DHS program, but community groups or individuals who choose to pay premiums for clients. DHS does not promote premium sponsorships, but has developed new policy to regulate acceptance of premium sponsorship payments. Effective June 1, 2004, OMAP adopted OAR 461-120-1390 to outline sponsorship policy and reference applicable federal regulations.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

<b>Contact(s):</b>	Joyce Clarkson (503) 945-6106 Michelle Marks (503) 947-5129		
<b>Phone:</b>	As listed above	<b>Fax:</b>	
<b>E-mail:</b>			