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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 92 LCM-189

Date: December 8, 1992

Division: Health and
Long Term Care

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Personal Emergency Response Services (PERS)
UL Safety Standard

ATTACHMENTS: None

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the parameters which constitute compliance with the personal emergency response services (PERS) standards as outlined in Appendix A of 91 ADM-42. Specifically, Department regulation 18 NYCRR 505.33(g) states:

"All PERS equipment must be approved by the Federal Communications Commission and meet the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. (UL) safety standard number 1637, which is the UL safety standard for home health care signaling equipment. The UL listing mark on the equipment will be accepted as evidence of the equipment's compliance with such standard."

A UL Listing Mark on the PERS equipment is evidence that UL has tested and evaluated the equipment and determined that it complies with UL 1637. The UL Listing Mark also means that the manufacturer of the equipment participates in UL's follow-up service program. Under the follow-up service program, UL representatives make periodic unannounced visits to the manufacturer to ascertain whether the product bearing the UL Listing Mark continues to be produced in accordance with specified safety requirements. A UL Listing Mark on the PERS equipment thus means not only that UL has determined that the equipment meets UL 1637 but also that the equipment is subject to UL's follow up service program.

Testing laboratories other than UL may also test PERS equipment to determine whether the equipment meets UL 1637. Equipment tested by laboratories other than UL will not bear the UL Listing Mark. Depending upon the individual laboratory's policy, PERS equipment tested by a laboratory other than UL may, or may not, be subject to a similar follow-up service program.

Social services districts have requested guidance regarding how they can assure that the PERS equipment for which they intend to contract meets UL 1637. In response, districts should comply with the following guidelines:

1. The district may contract for PERS equipment that has been tested and accepted by UL; or
2. The district may contract for PERS equipment that does not bear a UL Listing Mark provided that the district has obtained a written statement from the equipment's manufacturer or from a testing laboratory other than UL that the equipment meets or exceeds UL 1637. The district should request the PERS provider obtain such a written statement and forward it to the district.

Questions concerning this memorandum should be directed to Mr. Donald Dwyer, Division of Health and Long Term Care, at 1-800-342-3715, extension 3-5616 or directly at (518) 473-5616, or to Ofislink DMA037.

Gregory M. Kaladjian
Executive Deputy Commissioner