

Our Kids, Health Insurance & Medicaid: Tidbits and Updates

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Ensuring that children and youth in DCF's care have access to health care services is facilitated by their enrollment into Medicaid, most often with one of the State's three Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO); Aetna Better Health, Americhoice by United Healthcare or Community Health Network. The Department of Social Services is the state organization responsible for Medicaid. DCF is fortunate to have five health advocates whose job is to assist Area Offices with the sometimes complicated world of medical insurance. As such, we feel it is important to provide Area Offices and others with updates on changes in Medicaid or MCO practice and policy that may impact children in our care. This is the first of a quarterly newsletter which the DCF Health Advocates will develop and distribute. It will address different aspects of health insurance including changes in legislative policy, DSS practice and new services and any information which will assist us in meeting the needs of children in our care.

Legislative Updates:

Medical coverage for Non-Citizens Reinstated

In December, the Department of Social Services planned to discontinue Medicaid for most non-citizen legal immigrants. Soon after, the statute was found to be unconstitutional by the State Superior Court and DSS is in the process of reinstating anyone who might have been removed from Medicaid. DSS has resumed enrollment of newly arrived legal immigrants in Medicaid.

An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorders

Effective January 1, 2010, the Federal Autism Insurance Reform Act (Public Act No. 09-115) was enacted. This act requires many private insurance companies begin covering the costs of diagnostic assessments for autism and services for individuals with autism who are under the age of 15. This will therefore effect only a small number of our clients since the vast majority are enrolled in Medicaid and this legislation does not affect their services or coverage.

This legislation affects only those children who have private insurance with Medicaid as secondary. In these cases it is important that we attempt to get insurance payment for autism spectrum disorders, so please ask providers to bill the child's private insurance first, if one exists, or to bill both the private insurance and Medicaid plan if the child has both insurances. If the child only has Medicaid, providers should bill the Medicaid program to see if the service is covered.

For further details about this act, please click [here](#):

Department of Social Services (DSS) Policy Updates

Dental Services:

DSS CT Dental Health Partnership (CTDHP) has been working diligently to improve access and quality of dental services for children and youth on Medicaid. The result has been a substantial increase in the number of available dental providers; outreach to clients who have not utilized dental services as prescribed by EPSDT; and implementation of preauthorization (PA) requirements.



The department has actively recruited dental providers and substantially increased the number of available providers including some pediatric dentists.

CT DHP has also reached out to clients who have not utilized dental services within the last year or as required by EPSDT. This includes children in our care. Caretakers and in some cases social workers were sent letters which stress the importance of oral health, described the CTDHP benefits, offered help finding a provider as well as assistance making appointments and with transportation.

Effective 2/1/10, dental providers will need to obtain Prior Authorization (PA) from CTDHP for certain procedures or the claim will be rejected and Medicaid will not pay for the service. It is possible that dental providers may try to bill DCF for these denied services. To avoid this you can ask a child's caretaker to remind the dental office to check with CTDHP to determine if PA is required prior to a child's having the procedure. And in the event that you receive a bill, please provide it promptly to your Area Office Health Advocate who will try to secure insurance payment. The majority of the new PA requirements effect adults. Of the few that impact children, they involve more extensive procedures like cast restoration, osteotomies and porcelain fusion on metal. DSS has also introduced a process for retrospective review of procedures in order to assist with quality improvement.

Community health centers have partnered with CTDHP to improved access to services including enhancing on-site dental services. Efforts have included expansion of hours and the development of a flyer which provides details for each site. The latter available through www.chcact.org.

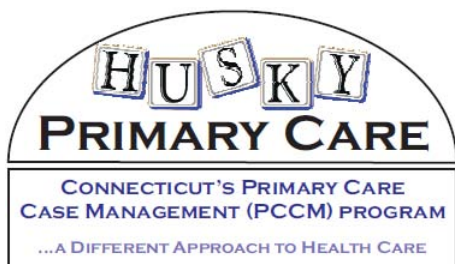
Multidisciplinary Examinations (MDEs):

DSS has just updated their policy regarding payment for clinics that perform MDEs. To view this billing policy, please click [here](#):

HUSKY Primary Care:

HUSKY Primary Care is a new Medicaid program that allows clients to enroll with their primary care doctor (PCP) directly. Foster parents and guardians can enroll in this program if they live in certain towns or their PCP participates in the program. There is no managed care plan. The client and their doctor make medical decisions. The doctor coordinates appointments with specialists, follows up on medical conditions and helps find community resources and services that are needed.

For more information and participating towns, please click [here](#):



Other tidbits

Administratively Necessary Days (Social Admissions)

DCF Health Advocates have recently discovered that in some situations our agency may not be responsible to pay for Administratively Necessary Days (social admissions). Please contact your Health Advocate if hospital days have been denied because they were deemed to be medically unnecessary. He/She will work with you to determine whether to file an appeal to try to overturn the denial and secure Medicaid payment.

Some Health Insurance "Pearls"

Transportation

Did you know that Medicaid will pay for bus or cab transportation for medical and mental health appointments? Ask your Area Office Health Advocate for more information.

Coverage

Did you know that Fluoride tablets and Centrum multivitamins are now covered by Medicaid? Ask your Area Office Health Advocate for more information.

Heads Up! What's happening in your community?

Bristol - a *New* Community Health Center has opened in Bristol

- The clinic is located at 59 North Main Street, Bristol CT 06010. The phone number is 860-585-5000
- The clinic is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
- The clinic will open on 2/15/10 and will start with primary care services
- The PCP is Dr. Melanie Rausche (also fluent in Spanish)
- All age groups will be served
- Behavioral Health may be added later if the demand increases. For now, they will refer clients to Wheeler or other local providers
- Clinic will not have dental services at this time. CHC has a mobile dental chair they set up at schools. They rotate schools every month and they do general cleanings and sealants
- All insurances are accepted except Connecticare. They have a sliding scale for clients without insurance
- They will help clients enroll in Medicaid
- There are no geographic limitations



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