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TO: Health Care Providers

FROM: Jon Barley, Ph.D., Chief, Bureau of Managed Health Care

DATE: June 10, 2005

SUBJECT: Mandatory Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment in Lorain County

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) recently announced that Lorain County returned to mandatory Medicaid managed care enrollment status in June, 2005. Previously, Covered Families and Children (CFC) Medicaid consumers were enrolled under what is known as Preferred Option, whereby consumers had a choice of receiving their services from CareSource, the managed care plan (MCP) serving Lorain County, or through regular fee-for-service Medicaid. Effective June 1, 2005 QualChoice Health Plan was awarded a provider agreement to provide Medicaid covered services in Lorain County. Now that there are two MCPs serving Lorain County, CFC consumers must enroll in either CareSource or QualChoice.

Letters and consumer guides are being mailed to eligible consumers. The letter informs consumers about mandatory enrollment and that they will be notified when they must choose an MCP. The guide provides basic information about the MCPs available and some helpful hints in choosing an MCP. Consumers may contact the State's Selection Services Center (SSC) to receive additional information and assistance in making a choice. If one of your patients is interested in learning more about choosing between CareSource and QualChoice, they may call the SSC at 1-800-605-3040.

Consumers who contact the SSC prior to June 20, 2005 to select an MCP will be effective in the plan July 1, 2005. New members will receive an MCP information packet and an MCP member identification card. Consumers, who fail to select CareSource or QualChoice, will be assigned to CareSource or QualChoice and will be an effective member with the new plan on August 1, 2005. If the healthcare provider does not contract with the member's MCP, the services will not be reimbursed by the MCP or ODJFS, unless the service is an emergency. Providers are advised to ask members for a copy of their MCP member identification card at each visit and/or verify eligibility prior to providing services (except in emergency).

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As a provider, you may be interested in contracting with one or more MCP. Medicaid providers who are not currently under contract with CareSource or QualChoice may contact the MCP for additional information.

CareSource	216-839-1001	Caylette Acy
QualChoice	440-544-3256	Dianne Miller

Please be aware that all contracting Medicaid MCPs, including CareSource and QualChoice must meet regulatory provider/contracting rules regarding contracting and credentialing processes.

Should you have any further questions regarding Medicaid managed care enrollment in Lorain County, please do not hesitate to contact Chris Heldman at (614) 466-4693.

Sincerely,

Jon Barley, Ph.D.  
Chief  
Bureau of Managed Health Care

cc: Michael Wilson  
Deborah McDonald  
Pamela Dorsey  
Chris Heldman