

Medicaid Managed Care News

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<http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/bmhc/index.stm>

As reported in the August and July editions of the Medicaid Managed Care News, nearly 400 individuals attended regional "listening sessions" to offer suggestions to improve cost efficiency, consumer access and health care outcomes for the Medicaid managed care program. April's edition of the Managed Care Monthly provided a status report regarding suggestions made at the listening sessions of August 2008, specifically Consumer Access to Services. This month's edition will provide a status report on the topic of Improving Health Care Outcomes.

Improving Health Care Outcomes

Medicaid Managed Care Plans (MCPs) give incentives to members to schedule and maintain their appointments.

MCPs also implement programs to encourage members to seek care and increase access to services. For example, some MCPs have implemented Dental Incentive Programs to encourage members to seek preventative dental care. These programs reward members who schedule and maintain an appointment for a routine dental visit.

Health Screenings

ODJFS collaborates with Medicaid managed care plans (MCPs) on a statewide Performance Improvement Project focusing on HealthChek (EPSDT) services.

MCPs implement initiatives to continuously improve access to high quality health care services delivered to consumers. For example, MCPs are currently required to participate in a statewide quality improvement collaborative designed to improve access to Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment services.

Proactive, Preventative Care Management

Ohio Medicaid managed care plans (MCPs) respond to consumers' health care needs by emphasizing the importance of primary care, health and wellness promotion, and disease prevention. This includes ensuring consumers have access to age-appropriate preventive health screenings and well-care visits with primary care providers. MCPs work closely with children, families, and providers to promote the importance of receiving HealthChek services (also known as the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment services). Similarly, MCPs work with pregnant women and providers to promote early and ongoing prenatal care services throughout the course of the pregnancy. Educational mailings, transportation, incentives, and 24-hour nurse hotlines are examples of the value-added health care services available to consumers enrolled in a managed care plan.

ODJFS Measures Clinical Performance & finds improvement

ODJFS requires Medicaid managed care plans (MCPs) to meet clinical performance standards. Ohio has improved children's access to primary care in the Managed Care program in each of the last six years, and has surpassed the national average for the past four years. Over the past five years, MCPs have improved well-child visits (in the first 15 months of life) by 22% and improved access to Lead Testing by over 30%. Ohio MCPs also exceed the national average in the initiation of prenatal care and for access to ongoing prenatal care throughout pregnancy.