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<http://jfs.ohio.gov>

TO: Fee-for-Service Health Care Providers

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

DATE: January 6, 2006

SUBJECT: Mandatory Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment in Franklin County

This is to inform you that the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), as part of its expansion of the Medicaid managed care program, signed a provider agreement with Molina Healthcare of Ohio, Inc. effective December 28, 2005, to provide Medicaid-covered services to Covered Families and Children (CFC) Medicaid consumers in Franklin County. Molina's entry into the Franklin County market in December, 2005 means that consumers will have the choice of two managed care plans (MCPs) in which to enroll: CareSource and Molina.

With the addition of a second plan, Franklin has become a mandatory managed care enrollment county. This means that eligible CFC consumers (also referred to as Healthy Start, Healthy Families) who are not enrolled in an MCP will soon receive official notice that they must choose an MCP for themselves and eligible family members. Those who do not choose a plan will be assigned to one. Consumers currently enrolled with CareSource are considered part of the mandatory program, and have the option of remaining with CareSource or changing to Molina Healthcare.

Non-enrolled consumers who make a choice of an MCP in January, 2006 may be enrolled in the MCP as early as February 1<sup>st</sup>. Almost all CFC consumers will be enrolled (except for certain children and adults who may be exempt from enrolling or are not mandated to enroll, see page two) in an MCP effective March 1<sup>st</sup>. Therefore you will need to be contracted with CareSource and/or Molina in order to receive reimbursement for providing services to CFC consumers enrolled in one of these MCPs. For additional information, Medicaid providers may contact the MCPs directly:

CareSource	1-877-725-4577	CareSource Provider Recruitment Connection
Molina	614-781-4304	Jim Hayden

Letters and a county-specific consumer guide will be mailed to CFC consumers in Franklin County in mid January. The letter informs consumers about mandatory MCP enrollment and explains that they must choose an MCP. The guide provides basic information about the MCPs available and some helpful hints in choosing an MCP. Shortly thereafter non-enrolled consumers will receive the official notice that they must choose a plan.

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Consumers may contact the State's Selection Services Center (SSC) at 1-800-605-3040 (TTY 1-800-292-3572) to receive additional information and assistance in making a choice. If one of your patients is interested in learning more about choosing an MCP they may call the SSC.

New members will receive a member handbook, provider directory and an MCP member identification card in place of their monthly Medicaid card. To verify a patient's enrollment in an MCP you may contact the MCP(s) with which you are contracted or the Ohio Medicaid Interactive Voice Response System (IVR) at 1-800-686-1516.

Please be aware that at this time mandatory enrollment only affects CFC consumers. Mandatory enrollment does **not** affect consumers who are eligible for Medicaid because they are Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD), nor does it affect consumers who are covered under both the Medicaid and Medicare programs or who receive Medicaid services through a home and community based waiver. Certain consumers are not required to be a member of an MCP. These consumers are children under nineteen (19) years of age who are: eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI); receiving federal foster care maintenance through an agreement between the local children services board and the foster care provider; receiving federal adoption assistance through an agreement between the local children services board and the adoptive parent; in foster care or an out of home placement; or receiving services through the Ohio Department of Health's Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMHC).

Medicaid provides health services through both a fee-for-service system and contractual agreements with MCPs. Contracting with an MCP does not in any way preclude providers from continuing to participate in the Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) program and treating patients who continue to receive health benefits through Medicaid FFS. As always, providers should verify a patient's eligibility for Medicaid services upon every visit. Whether patient coverage is under the Medicaid FFS program in which consumers receive a monthly Medicaid card, or through a participating MCP in which members have an MCP member card, verification of eligibility is a helpful step taken to avoid problems associated with billing the incorrect payer.

Please be aware that MCP providers must meet MCP-specific contracting and credentialing requirements; however, MCPs are not required to contract with all FFS providers.

For additional information about the Medicaid managed care program please visit our web site at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp> and select "Managed Care" under the Providers Link. In addition, you may wish to check the web site periodically for updates regarding the managed care program in general, and Franklin County in particular.

Should you have any further questions regarding Medicaid managed care enrollment in Franklin County, please contact Chris Heldman or Kelly Dunkowski at (614) 466-4693.

cc: BMHC