

MEDICAID NEWS

Office of Medical Services

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www.state.sd.us/state/executive/social/medicaid

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Periodically, the Office of Medical Services will be sending out new News. Please take the time to read the News, as it will be beneficial for both the provider and the Office of Medical Services.

New South Dakota Medicaid Director

Dave Christensen, Administrator of the Office of Medical Services and Director of the Medicaid Program, recently resigned to pursue interests outside of state government. Damian Prunty has been appointed as his successor effective June 1. Damian has been with the Department of Social Services for nine years as the Administrator of the Office of Provider Reimbursement and Audits.

Verifying Eligibility

It is very important to verify every recipient's eligibility. **The Medicaid Identification Card does not guarantee Medicaid eligibility.** It is the provider's responsibility to verify eligibility through the Department of Social Services, Office of Medical services (DSS-OMS). Verification can be done by either of the two processes:

1. **Point of Sale Device and/or PC software products:** Allows electronic eligibility verification with DSS-OMS on a real-time basis. To obtain more information regarding this form of verification, providers can call ENVOY Corporation at 1-800-366-5716.
2. **Automated Voice Response System:** Available through DSS-OMS. To access this system, please dial 1-800-452-7691.

The recipient must have his/her plastic Medicaid ID card anytime they get medical care.

If there is any question whether the individual using the card is the actual recipient named on the identification card, please call the office of recoveries and investigation at (605) 773-3653.

Chickenpox Vaccination Required For 2000 - 2001 Kindergarten Entry

According to a survey completed by the Centers for Disease Control, only 13% of 19-35 month-olds in South Dakota are immunized for chickenpox, lower than the national average of 43% and also well below

the rates in neighboring states which range from 36% in North Dakota to 46% in Minnesota.

Gov. Janklow recently signed a bill to require South Dakota children to be immunized for chickenpox before they enter school. Senate Bill 42 adds chickenpox, or varicella, to the list of immunizations already required for school entry.

"The fact is there's a safe, effective vaccine for chickenpox, and there's no reason for kids to get sick with chickenpox anymore," Janklow said. "We've got one of the lowest chickenpox immunization rates in the nation. That means we're letting our kids get sick when we don't have to."

Janklow said chickenpox also places a significant burden on parents, employers and schools as parent miss work to care for children who typically miss as much as a week of school with the illness.

SB 42 was a companion measure to the Governor's budget request that will provide \$250,000 in state general funds to supply the vaccine for the state's children in the 12-18 month age groups and also 5-year-olds as a "catch-up" measure. The initial cost of immunizing these age groups with the vaccine is approximately \$350,000 a year but will drop in about 3 years when current infants reach kindergarten and will already be immunized. The South Dakota Caring Program for Children Foundation has agreed to contribute \$100,000 to help launch the initiative.

This law goes into effect July 1, 2000, and will affect the 2000-2001 kindergarten class. Children entering kindergarten this fall will, prior to school entry, need to show either documentation of receipt of the varicella vaccine or a reliable history of chickenpox disease. A parental history will be acceptable, and physician documentation will not be necessary, as is consistent with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). New *South Dakota Immunization Certificates* are being developed to reflect the new requirement, and will be distributed to schools this spring and summer.

The South Dakota Department of Health is working with community resources across the state to make the varicella vaccine available through special

summer immunization clinics for children entering kindergarten in the 2000-2001 school year. Details of these clinics will be forthcoming. Questions regarding this new requirement may be addressed by contacting Lori Koenecke, SD Immunization Program Coordinator, at (605) 773-5323, or by e-mail at: Lori.Koenecke@state.sd.us

Quality Assurance

In an attempt to measure the availability and quality of services provided to South Dakota's Medicaid Managed Care patients, the Office of Medical Services has been conducting Quality Assurance studies in many different areas. These studies are helpful in evaluating areas where we have seen success and have also aided in identifying areas where more emphasis is needed.

The following is a list of the Quality Assurance studies completed to date. If you would like a copy of a particular study, please feel free to contact Judy Merriman at (605) 773-3495 or by e-mail at Judy.Merriman@state.sd.us.

- 1. SSI-Ambulatory Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness**
Percentage of SSI enrollees, ages 11-64 years old, who were hospitalized for treatment of specified mental health disorders who were seen on an ambulatory basis within 30 days of hospital discharge.
- 2. Well Child Visits**
Well Child Visits in the first 12 months of Life
Percentage of children 12 to 15 months old who received 0 through 5 Well Child Visits in the first 12 to 15 months of life. (Note: 6 visits are recommended however we used 5 to allow for lag time that providers have to bill Medicaid for these services.)
Well Child Visits for children ages 4, 5 and 6
Percentage of Medicaid children age four, five and six who received a well child visit with a primary care provider during the reporting year.
Well Child Visits for CHIP Kids
Percentage of children ages 6 through 18 who are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program who received a well child visit during the 15 months prior to 9/1/1999.
- 3. Asthma**
Percentage of Medicaid enrollees aged 4 – 21 continuously enrolled during fiscal year 1999 who have been diagnosed with asthma and received care in the emergency room for asthma related services AND whether recipients with asthma are being prescribed appropriate medications (anti-inflammatory medications) to control or prevent future acute asthma events.

4. Immunization Rates for TANF Children under age 2

Percentage of Medicaid enrollees ages 0 – 2 years old continuously eligible for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) from 4/99 to 1/2000 who were age appropriately immunized according to the Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic Treatment (EPSDT) periodicity schedule.

5. Mammography Screenings

Percentage of Medicaid enrolled women between the ages of 52 and 64 years of age that had a mammogram during the previous two calendar years.

6. Birth Outcomes

Percentage of Medicaid Managed Care women who received adequate prenatal care while eligible for Medicaid that resulted in the birth of a healthy newborn.

Help Us Help You

Telephone Service Unit

When leaving a voice message for our telephone service unit, please remember to leave a phone number and a provider number. Lately the Telephone Service Unit has had several messages left with neither a provider number or telephone number; therefore our staff is unable to return those calls.

Claims Processing Unit

Please try to take a few minutes to review claims for accuracy before sending them in, as it is in our mutual benefit.

Remember to sign and date your paper claims and make sure that a provider number has been entered on the claim.

When submitting a claim for a recipient who would be eligible for benefits under the Indian Health Service (IHS) Contract Care Program, please code the "Source of Admission" (Locator 20 on the UB-92) with a "0" and on a HCFA 1500 claim form, code field 10-d with an "I".

Thank you for taking the time to read Medicaid News!