



# At a Glance

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Updates      November 30, 2011

This publication updates you on major Department initiatives including policy changes and program updates. Please feel free to share it with your colleagues and contact the designated staff person if you would like more information.



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## Breaking News

### New NEMT Contractor

We are pleased to announce that [First Transit](#) has been chosen as the new Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT) contractor for clients on Medicaid residing in the Counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Larimer and Weld.

The new NEMT contract is effective January 1, 2012 and contains several improvements including the following:

- Enhancing vehicle safety requirements: First Transit must have a safety expert inspect all transportation vehicles;
- Enforcing strict driver requirements, including ongoing driver training and safety monitoring;
- Consulting with clinical specialists to determine the most appropriate mode of transportation for elderly and disabled clients;
- Reducing NEMT trip booking requirements from 72 hours to 48 hours prior to the appointment time;
- Providing trip scheduling 24 hours per day, 7 days a week; and

- Using a computer monitoring system to assist transportation providers with last-minute routing and scheduling changes to ensure clients reach their destinations on time.

This new NEMT contract simplifies transportation for clients on Medicaid to get to and from their medical appointments thereby reducing use of hospital emergency rooms for primary health care needs.

Last year over 11,000 unique clients received NEMT services. If you would like more information, please contact [Doug van Hee](#).

### **CHP+ Cost-Sharing Changes Approved**

The Department worked with stakeholders to develop a revised cost-sharing plan which gained final approval from the Medical Services Board (MSB) on November 18, 2011. The plan includes changes to both the annual enrollment fee and copayment structure.

These changes include the following:

Annual Enrollment Fee Changes – Effective January 1, 2012

Families earning more than 205% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will be impacted. For example, a family of four with a gross yearly income of more than approximately \$44,700 would pay the new enrollment fee. The new enrollment fee will increase from \$25 to \$75 for one child and from \$35 to \$105 for two or more children. Enrollment fees will not change for families earning less than 205% FPL.

All CHP+ clients received a letter in early November telling them about the increase. Managed Care Organizations will be communicating to their members through their normal channels of member communication.

Changes to copayments will not be effective until July 1, 2012.

If you would like more information, visit [Colorado.gov/hcpf](http://Colorado.gov/hcpf) and click on [“What’s New”](#).

### **CHP+ Changes to Pre-HMO Period**

In its November meeting, the Medical Services Board approved [a rule](#) that changes the pre-HMO period in the CHP+ program. This rule change implements a budget reduction item passed by the General Assembly. This change only impacts applicants to the CHP+ program, not current clients. For more information visit [Colorado.gov/hcpf](http://Colorado.gov/hcpf) and click on [“What’s New”](#) or contact [Alan.Kislowitz](#).

## **Improving Health Outcomes**

### **Accountable Care Collaborative Update**

The Accountable Care Collaborative is expanding rapidly. We are sending 23,879 letters to Medicaid members for January enrollment in the program.

### **Accountable Care Collaborative Program Improvement Advisory Committee**

Our next Program Improvement Advisory Committee will be held on January 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at [225 E. 16th Avenue, Denver, CO 80203](#) in the first floor conference room. These meetings are open to public and there is a period for public comment.

More information can be found about the committee by [clicking here](#).

## **Increasing the Number of Insured Coloradans**

### **Adults without Dependent Children Program Update**

Starting in March 2012, a newly eligible category of Coloradans can apply for public health insurance benefits. Coverage for Adults without Dependent Children (AwDC) was part of the Colorado Health Care Affordability Act and is funded by the Hospital Provider Fee. Initially, 10,000 clients with incomes below 10% FPL (approximately \$90 per month) will be enrolled.

The Department will maintain a waitlist of additional eligible clients. If the costs to provide benefits per person are lower than expected the Department will enroll more clients by either

1. Increasing the enrollment cap past 10,000; or
2. If there is no waitlist, increasing the income threshold. Clients will receive the Medicaid benefit provided to low-income adults and will be enrolled in the Behavioral Health Organizations.

The Department is also requesting permission from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to mandatorily enroll this population into the Accountable Care Collaborative. *If you would like to learn more about the program or how to participate in stakeholder forums please contact [Susan Mathieu](#).*

## Healthy Living Initiatives

### New Provider Toolkits

The Department has identified four priority areas for health promotion and disease prevention; these are our [Healthy Living Initiatives](#).

The Department has released provider tool kits which provide guidance on how to document and address health promotion in the primary care setting. The tool kits provide information on coding and reimbursement for screening, diagnosis, treatment and referral in the following areas:

- [Preventive oral health for children](#)
- [Addressing depression](#) in the primary care setting
- [Addressing obesity](#)
- [Reducing tobacco use](#)

The tool kits are posted on our [Healthy Living page](#). If you would like more information, please contact [Lisa Waugh](#).

## Employment Opportunities

Applying for state jobs has just become easier! Applications are electronic, you will receive updates, and you do not need to answer any written questions until it is determined that you meet the minimum qualifications. Check out the new [Web site](#) and our job openings.

The Department offers a competitive benefits package that includes the Public Employees' Retirement Account (PERA), a 401K or 457 retirement plan, health and dental insurance options, 10 holidays, and accrual of paid sick and vacation time.

The Department is a tobacco-free campus.

## Enrollment

<p>In October 2011 there were 608,533 clients enrolled in Medicaid and 68,766 clients enrolled in CHP+. Monthly numbers for enrollment and expenditures can be found on the Department's <a href="#">Budget Web page</a>.</p>
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