



At a Glance

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Updates

June 29, 2012

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

ACA update

A statement from Sue Birch, Executive Director



“Today’s decision means that more uninsured Coloradans could gain access to Medicaid beginning in 2014. We will spend the coming weeks further analyzing the specific impact of the decision. In Colorado, we have been working for years towards reforming our health care system and covering the uninsured.

The Department, in collaboration with the Governor, our partner agencies, legislative partners, county partners, providers and other stakeholders, has been moving forward to implement the provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Had we not done this, we may have missed out on federal funding to modernize our eligibility and enrollment systems and would have faced challenges meeting the federal deadlines for implementation of the law.

Because of the collaborative planning that has been done by the Department and stakeholders, Colorado is well positioned to successfully implement federal health care reform. The Department will continue to focus on improving health outcomes and containing health care costs in all of our programs. The additional funding provided by the Affordable Care Act will help us meet the goal of delivering the best value for every health care dollar spent.”

Medicaid Buy-In Program for Children with Disabilities

The Children's Buy-In Program is launching July 1, 2012. This expansion is part of the Colorado Health Care Affordability Act and is funded by the Hospital Provider Fee.

The Children's Buy-In will provide regular Medicaid benefits for children who are under age 19, have a qualifying disability and whose family's adjusted income is at or below 300% of the FPL. Eligible families will receive Medicaid benefits for their child with a disability by paying a monthly premium on a sliding fee scale based on their adjusted income.

If you would like more information, please visit the Department Web site at Colorado.gov/hcpf/MedicaidBuyInPrograms, email customer.service@hcpf.state.co.us or call 1-800-221-3943.

IAPD

The Department resubmitted the Implementation Advance Planning Document (IAPD) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to secure federal funding for Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation as it pertains to public programs. Background on this planning process is available on the Department's [planning Web page](#). The IAPD consisted of enrollment process improvements and technology enhancements including real-time eligibility determinations.

Once funding is secure, the Department will reach out to stakeholders to provide an opportunity for your feedback and participation in the design and testing of pieces as they come to fruition between now and 2015.

For more information on the IAPD process, please contact [Megan Wood](#).

Improving Health Outcomes

Accountable Care Collaborative

There is an Accountable Care Collaborative Advisory Committee meeting on July 18, 2012. This meeting is open to the public.

If you would like more information, please click [here](#).

Stories behind the Success

A patient was being treated for chronic physical and mental issues. Over a short period of time, the patient visited the emergency department 12 times. Through the local RCCO, the patient was able to get their health care and life back in order. The patient has stayed out of the emergency room for weeks and receives food stamps and has transportation to appointments.



Integrated Care for Clients on Medicaid and Medicare

The Department was awarded a contract by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Innovation Center to develop a proposal to integrate care for clients who are enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid.

The goals of the program are to improve care for these clients, improve health outcomes and the client experience of care, and reduce unnecessary costs.

Our proposal has been sent to CMS and, if funded, the proposed plan will be implemented in early 2013.

Thank you to everyone for the extensive support and assistance provided over the past few months. This is another example of collaboration proving yet again that we do our best work when we work together.

The next stakeholder meeting is July 13, 2012, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. To RSVP by July 6, contact [Laura Pionke](#).

If you would like more information, please contact [Teri Bolinger](#).

Containing Health Care Costs

Budget Reduction Initiatives

As part of the Department's strategic goal to contain health care costs, the Department proposed budget reductions through a series of initiatives. These initiatives provide a combination of rate adjustments to realign incentives, service restrictions and financial efficiencies.

Medicaid program expenditures will be reduced by \$21,199,706 total funds and \$26,318,205 General Fund in FY 2012-13.

Initiatives effective July 1, 2012

- FY 2012-13 Class I nursing facility rates will be reduced by 1.5%. This includes hospice and PACE rates.
- Policies have been implemented to prevent the utilization of Seroquel for off label use. Seroquel is a drug used to treat schizophrenia. However, it is sometimes prescribed for treatment of insomnia and anxiety.
- The Department is in the process of clarifying rules regarding eligibility for orthodontics. These clarifications are expected to reduce utilization of orthodontics for all cases except those where the client has a condition where speech or the ability to eat is significantly impaired.
- The Department initiated a competitive procurement process to acquire a sole source diabetic testing supply provider whereby the Department can leverage purchasing power to obtain significant rebates
- The Department has initiated a pilot project to shift some outpatient surgery utilization from the outpatient hospital setting to the less costly ambulatory surgical setting.
- Client copayments for CHP+ and CACP for certain procedures will be increased.

For a complete list of initiatives for FY 2012-13 please click [here](#).

Increasing the Number of Insured Coloradans

AwDC Waitlist and Enrollment

As of June 2012 about 8,000 clients are enrolled in AwDC. In July, if fewer than 10,000 have been determined eligible, all individuals on the waitlist will be enrolled in the program. Otherwise, the randomized member selection process will begin in July if more than 10,000 have been determined eligible by July 10, 2012.

Thank you for encouraging potential clients to apply for AwDC.
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Applicants who are determined eligible, and placed on the waitlist after July 10, will be considered for the early August statewide randomized member selection process.

If you would like more information, please contact [Susan Mathieu](#).

Regional Conferences

Statewide conferences jointly presented by the Departments of Health Care Policy and Financing and Human Services begin in July.

July and August Dates

July 11-12	Pueblo Pueblo Convention Center 320 Central Main Street Pueblo, Colorado 81003
July 25-26	Denver El Jebel Shrine 4625 W. 50 th Avenue Denver, Colorado 80212
August 1-2	Alamosa Alamosa Family Recreation Center 8666 S. Road 109 Alamosa, CO 81101
August 8-9	Loveland Best Western Crossroads Inn and Conference Center 5542 E. Highway 34 Loveland, CO 80537
August 15-16	Sterling Ramada 22140 E. Highway 6 Sterling, CO 80751
August 20-21	Grand Junction Clarion Inn 755 Horizon Drive Grand Junction, CO 81506

A complete list of conference dates and locations may be found at Colorado.gov/hcpf on the Training Events page or click [here](#).

Medical Services Board Meetings

The [Medical Services Board](#) is responsible for adopting regulations that govern the Department's programs. Members of the Board represent various areas of health care services. Contact information and member biographies are available at [About the Board](#).

Regular meetings of the Board are scheduled in Denver the second Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m., at 225 East 16th Avenue, 6th floor conference room. Board meetings are open to the public and testimony is welcomed.

The next meeting is Friday, July 13, 2012. You can find the agenda and draft copies of proposed rules posted to the Department Web site one week prior to each meeting on the [Meeting Schedule](#) page. For those who can't attend meetings in person, a live audio broadcast of Board meetings is available on the [Live Broadcast](#) web page.

Partners who are interested in a one-on-one discussion with Department staff about upcoming rules are invited to attend the Department's Public Rule Review Meeting. Information is available on the [Public Rule Review Meetings](#) web page. Reasonable accommodations for the meetings are provided upon request for persons with disabilities.

For more information or to be added to the Board email distribution list for updates on Board activities, please contact [Judi Carey](#).

Employment Opportunities

Applying for state government jobs is easy. 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

In May 2012 there were 642,649 clients enrolled in Medicaid and 86,521 clients enrolled in CHP+. Monthly numbers for enrollment and expenditures can be found on the Department's [Budget Web page](#).



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