

# Provider Newsletter



Your **Healthcare Plus**™  
Extra help for better health

## Can You Make a Difference for Your Medicaid Patients? Clinical Metrics

Of course, you can—and do—make a difference! There are times, however, when impacting patients can be a real challenge. Did you know that **Your Healthcare Plus**™ (YHP) program staff can help you address some of the challenges you face? YHP is here for you, providing support and encouragement to patients, and helping them to follow your recommended treatment plan.

Your Healthcare Plus has been specifically designed to promote evidence-based clinical guidelines. These measures have been selected because their high value can improve a member's quality of life and reduce common complications of chronic conditions. Some measures, such as written action plans, smoking cessation rates, and blood pressure control, are monitored by program staff based on patient-reported information. Other clinical measures are monitored from claims submitted to HFS.

Of all the measures, **blood pressure (BP) management** may be especially challenging to positively impact. Cardiovascular disease is a major contributor of mortality in diabetic patients, and elevated BP is also associated with nephropathy and other microvascular complications. Epidemiologic analyses show that BP values greater than 115/75 are associated with increased CV risk and mortality.

The American Diabetes Association recommends the following:

- **Target goal:** < 130/80. Conduct BP screening at every routine visit (and tell the patient the numbers.)
  - Note: BP =140/90 in diabetes is considered *severe* hypertension.
- Treatment to target for *both* the systolic *and* diastolic values.
- Treatment includes both lifestyle change recommendations and pharmacologic therapy including:
  - ACE inhibitor or ARB (except with pregnancy)

(Continued on page 3)

## A Value Added to Your Practice: Provider Profiles

**B**oth the Illinois Health Connect™ (IHC) and Your Healthcare Plus™ (YHP) programs use key clinical indicators to measure population health and identify areas for quality improvement. The Quality Management Advisory Subcommittee selected the clinical indicators from evidence-based guidelines via a consensus process and with input from a broad array of stakeholders. The selected indicators include items such as immunizations, prescription recommendations, and condition-based tests. To make this information as accessible as possible, IHC and YHP offer educational outreach materials that incorporate supplying physicians with Provider Profiles summarizing current data on key clinical indicators.

Your Healthcare Plus sent key clinical indicator data to a limited number of physicians in the summer of 2007. Since then, the project has continued to grow and most providers seeing eligible patients will receive information on a quarterly basis. Illinois Health Connect is currently launching its effort, and all IHC Primary Care Providers will receive their first IHC Provider Profile in July 2008 as part of a semi-annual schedule. Providers are linked to patients using PCP linkage

(Continued on page 3)



### Did you know?

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) and McKesson Health Solutions, a business unit of McKesson Corporation, recently announced that Your Healthcare Plus—the state's DM program—lowered inappropriate inpatient and emergency department admissions, and improved key clinical indicators to help HFS achieve a *net savings of nearly \$34 million* after program fees in the first year of the three year program.

## Supporting Your Practice



### Illinois Health Connect 2008 Bonus Payment for High Performance

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) is proud to announce its Illinois Health Connect Bonus Payment program for 2008. Under this program, Illinois Health Connect Primary Care Providers (PCPs) are eligible to receive annual bonus payments for each qualifying service under a bonus measurement. The bonus measurements are:

- **Immunization Combo 3:** Children who receive designated immunizations by age 24 months (benchmark 62.6%).
- **Developmental Screening:** Children who receive at least one objective screening by the age of 12 months (benchmark 35%), between the ages of 12 and 24 months (benchmark 25%), and between the ages of 24 and 36 months (benchmark 20%). A bonus will be available for each separate age group.
- **Asthma management:** Patients with persistent asthma, ages 5-9 years (91.7%), ages 10-17 years (benchmark 88.8%) and ages 18-56 years (benchmark 85.4%) who fill an asthma controller medication prescription.
- **Diabetes Management:** Patients with diabetes, ages 18 to 65 years who receive at least one HbA1c test annually (benchmark 79.3%).
- **Breast Cancer Screening:** Women between the ages of 40 and 69 who have had a mammogram in the last two years (benchmark 49.2%).

These bonus measurements were selected by HFS based on input from participating PCPs, clinicians and healthcare quality specialists who participate in the Quality Management Advisory Subcommittee. Illinois Health Connect PCPs who meet or exceed the 2007 HEDIS 50th percentile benchmark, established by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA),

collectively for all the Illinois Health Connect enrollees on their panel roster for a particular measure are eligible. In the case of developmental screening, the benchmark targets are set forth above.

All claims for these services must be submitted to HFS prior to April 1, 2009, to be eligible for 2008 bonus payments. PCPs do not have to report any special information to earn a bonus payment; they just need to submit a detailed claim for the services that are rendered, as usual.

If a PCP meets or exceeds the benchmark for a particular measured service, a bonus payment will be made for each patient that received the measured services. If the PCP does not meet the benchmark, there will be no bonus payment made for any patients, whether they received the service or not. The bonus payments will be at least \$20 per patient (one patient could meet several measurements). They may be higher depending on the number of qualifying PCPs and the number of patients receiving a measured service from those PCPs.

To determine eligibility, HFS will count the number of qualifying patients for each measure enrolled on each PCP's Illinois Health Connect panel roster on December 1, 2008. The HFS team will then use claims data to determine which patients received the appropriate services during the evaluation period. For immunizations, Cornerstone data will also be used. The bonus payment will be based on claims after three months; however, providers have 12 months from the date of service to bill for payment (January through March of 2009).

More specific information about each bonus measurement and the target benchmarks can be found on the Illinois Health Connect website at [www.illinoishealthconnect.com](http://www.illinoishealthconnect.com) under the Quality Tools section or obtained by calling the Illinois Health Connect Provider Helpdesk at 1-877-912-1999. ■

## Clinical Metrics

(continued from page 1)

- If needed: the addition of a thiazide diuretic with a GFR = 50ml/min, or a loop diuretic for a GFR <50ml/min
- Monitor kidney function and serum potassium
- Multiple drug therapy is generally required to achieve target goals
- BP target goals for women with diabetes and chronic hypertension who are pregnant are 110-129 / 65-79

Your Healthcare Plus supports your practice by reinforcing the importance of medication adherence, but only you as a provider can prescribe medications or order tests that are indicated for chronic condition management, such as ACE inhibitors, or ARBs, beta blockers, diuretics, cholesterol lowering agents, antiplatelet agents, inhaled corticosteroids, and bronchodilators, which are known to control and manage the five chronic conditions\* closely monitored by Your Healthcare Plus.

Tests, such as HbA1C, lipid panels, microalbuminuria and spirometry are also under your control and are critical to identifying concerns in a timely manner. And remember, Medicaid now reimburses for spirometry testing performed the same day as an office visit.

Please call 1-800-973-6792 to talk to your local YHP case coordination staff.

### \* Clinical guidelines:

- **Diabetes:** ADA, 2008:  
[http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/vol31/suppl\\_1/](http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/vol31/suppl_1/)
- **Asthma:** 2007 National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Expert Panel 3: NIH publication 07-4051.  
<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/asthma/asthgdln.pdf>
- **COPD:** 2007: <http://www.goldcopd.org>
- **Heart Failure:** ACC/AHA 2005  
<http://content.onlinejacc.org/cgi/reprint/46/6/e1>
- **CAD:**
  - AHA/ACC: Secondary Prevention, 2006:  
<http://content.onlinejacc.org/cgi/reprint/47/10/2130>
  - ACC/AHA 2002 Chronic Stable Angina:  
[http://www.acc.org/qualityandscience/clinical/guidelines/stable/stable\\_clean.pdf](http://www.acc.org/qualityandscience/clinical/guidelines/stable/stable_clean.pdf)
  - ACC/AHA/ESC 2006 Atrial Fibrillation:  
[http://www.acc.org/qualityandscience/clinical/guidelines/atrial\\_fib/pdfs/AF\\_Full\\_Text.pdf](http://www.acc.org/qualityandscience/clinical/guidelines/atrial_fib/pdfs/AF_Full_Text.pdf)

Short and easy to use guideline summaries are available at [www.yourhealthcareplusdr.com](http://www.yourhealthcareplusdr.com) or [www.yhplus.com](http://www.yhplus.com). ■

## Provider Profiles

(continued from page 1)

data from the Illinois Health Connect program. The data is gathered from adjudicated claims data from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS).

The purpose of the Provider Profiles is to share data on key clinical indicators with physicians so they can close any gaps in care guidelines, and decide how to best ensure that their patients receive all appropriate preventive services

Providers are encouraged to share the data with other key office staff, including nursing staff and a quality manager. The data can be a useful tool to identify where a practice is best meeting its patients' needs, and where additional attention is needed. In addition to being sent directly to provider offices, Provider Profile data for both programs is also available by logging onto the Department's secure Medical Electronic Data Interchange (MEDI) system. The secure MEDI system holds identifying information about its users and controls access, which protects the privacy of both YHP and IHC providers and their Medicaid-eligible patients.

In addition to receiving data on key clinical indicators, providers have other resources available to them through the programs. For example, expanded clinical information about each patient can be obtained from the monthly IHC panel rosters mailed to each PCP, or online through the MEDI system. Providers can also access the Claims History tool through MEDI. The Claims History tool contains two years of HFS claims data for each patient, including a list of prescriptions filled over the past two years, and at least four years of immunization data. Providers also have access to Continuing Medical Education (CME) modules that provide information on a variety of topics, including how to implement a quality improvement initiative in the office.

Information and data are most valuable when shared. The Provider Profile programs are designed to help busy clinicians improve quality of care by summarizing key clinical indicators in a consistent format for review and action. We hope you will review the data and use it to support your practice.

For more information or resources, please visit the Quality Tools section of [www.illinoishealthconnect.com](http://www.illinoishealthconnect.com), [www.yourhealthcareplusdr.com](http://www.yourhealthcareplusdr.com), or look for CME modules at [www.yhplus.com](http://www.yhplus.com). ■

## Program Milestones

### Illinois Health Connect— Enrollment Update

- As of June 26, 2008, the statewide number of clients enrolled in a medical home is 1,727,966.
- The statewide number of medical homes enrolled in the Illinois Health Connect program is 5,304.
- The statewide panel size capacity is 5,346,065.

### Your Healthcare Plus— Enrollment Update

There are more than 23,000 active participants as of May 31, 2008. These participants represent those individuals at the highest risk and most in need of additional support.

## Upcoming Events

### Illinois Health Connect

July 23	8:30 a.m.	Vision Services Webinar
August 27	8:30 a.m.	Billing Overview Webinar

### Your Healthcare Plus

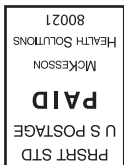
August 5	12–1 p.m.	CT Respiratory Health Subcommittee
August 13	12–1 p.m.	CT Behavioral Health Subcommittee
September 11–12		58th Annual Convention and Trade Show of the Illinois Health Care Association
September 12–13		Women's Health Forum

Visit the Your Healthcare Plus and the Illinois Health Connect Web sites for more information on upcoming events.

This newsletter is available on the Your Healthcare Plus and Illinois Health Connect websites:  
[www.yourhealthcareplusdr.com](http://www.yourhealthcareplusdr.com) [www.illinoishealthconnect.com](http://www.illinoishealthconnect.com)



© 2008 McKesson Health Solutions LLC.  
Your Healthcare Plus™ is a trademark of the State of Illinois.  
Printed by authority of the State of Illinois.  
ILPRNL\_0408 11000



1400 S. Wolf Road  
Building 200  
Wheeling, IL 60090



State of Illinois  
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor  
Barry S. Maram, Director  
Department of Healthcare and Family Services