



To: All Illinois Health Connect PCPs

From: Illinois Health Connect

RE: Specialty Care provided by IHC PCPs

Date: 9-27-10

This memo is to clarify the referral policy for specialty care rendered by providers who are enrolled as an Illinois Health Connect (IHC) PCP. Currently ALL care, except those services that are designated direct access, provided by IHC PCPs to patients who are not currently enrolled on their panel roster requires a referral. This policy applies to specialty care provided by an IHC PCP. This policy also applies to FQHCs and RHCs that render specialty care to patients who are not enrolled on their panel roster at the time of service. A complete listing of the direct access services and services that do not require a referral is included below. This listing is also posted on the Illinois Health Connect Provider Portal under the Provider Referral tab.

IHC PCPs who do provide specialty care are encouraged to coordinate with the patient's PCP and obtain a referral for specialty care. Referring PCPs may encounter that some specialists who are also enrolled as IHC PCPs will request a referral for specialty care.

Under the Referral System it is the responsibility of each IHC PCP to ensure that the patient is enrolled with them or an affiliate on the date of service, or to ensure that the patient's PCP has registered a referral with IHC before providing services, excluding direct access services listed below. All referrals must be registered with IHC in order to be reimbursed for services by HFS. Referrals can be registered online via the IHC Provider Portal or via phone or fax and can be registered for up to one year to facilitate ongoing co-management of the patient. Providers can also obtain a retroactive referral for up to 60 days after the date of service. However, a patient's assigned PCP is not required to submit a referral to IHC for services provided. Submitting referrals to IHC for services rendered by another IHC PCP is at the discretion of the patient's PCP. IHC strongly encourages all PCPs to utilize their panel rosters or to check PCP assignments in the Department's MEDI system (assignments are updated daily) to ensure a patient is enrolled with them for their IHC medical home on the date of service and if not, to obtain a referral before providing services to ensure they are reimbursed for services provided. If a PCP accepts a patient without a referral and is not reimbursed for services by HFS, the PCP can under no circumstances request payment from the patient. PCPs seeing patients that are not enrolled with them for their medical home on the date of service assume all risk for non-payment if no referral is obtained and registered with IHC.

If you have additional questions, contact the Illinois Health Connect Provider Services Helpdesk or your Provider Service Representative at 1-877-912-1999.

Services that DO NOT Require a Referral

Services provided by:

- ✓ Physicians, not enrolled as a Illinois Health Connect PCP
- ✓ Nurse practitioners, midwives and physician assistants not affiliated with a PCP
- ✓ Podiatrists and chiropractors
- ✓ Audiologists

Services that are Direct Access and DO NOT Require a Referral

Services provided to newborns up to 91 days after birth

Family Planning and Obstetrical and Gynecological (OB/GYN) services

Shots/Immunizations

Emergency Room

Emergency and Non-Emergency Transportation

Pharmaceuticals

Dental Services

Vision/Optomtrist Services

Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy

Mental Health and Substance Abuse services provided by Department of Human Services Community Mental Health Service Providers (provider type 36) and Department of Human Services Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Service Providers (provider type 75) and Psychiatrists

Outpatient Ancillary services (radiology, pathology, lab, anesthesia)

Services to treat sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis

Early Intervention services

Lead Screening and Epidemiological Services

Hospital Services

Home Health Care

Medical Equipment and Supplies

Services provided by:

- ✓ School-Based/Linked Clinics for children under age 21
- ✓ School- Based clinics through Local Education Authorities for children under age 21
- ✓ Local Health Departments
- ✓ Mobile vans, with HFS approval
- ✓ Emergency Department Diversion Centers, with HFS approval
- ✓ FQHC homeless sites and migrant health centers