

Medicaid Managed Care Weekly

Issue 11

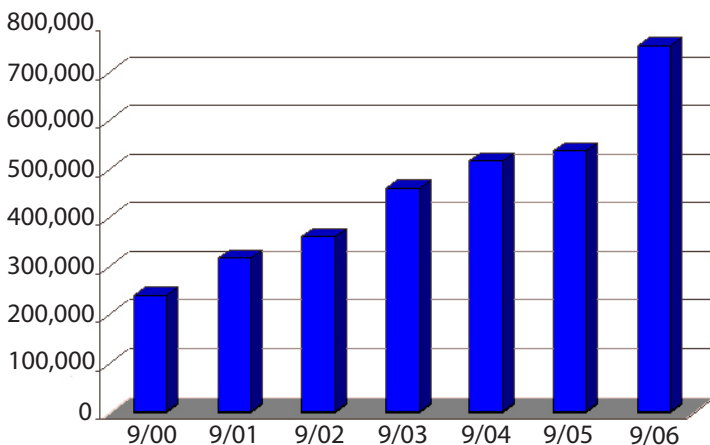
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August 30, 2006

Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment Continues to Grow

Enrollment in Medicaid managed care is now at 755,286. Recent increases are the result of enrollment in the East Central region that began on July 1st and some modest increases in the West Central, and Southwest regions that began enrollment on August 1st. Another substantial increase will occur when approximately 95,000 consumers in the Southeast region are added to the program.

Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment Growth



Update on Managed Care Expansion in Ohio's Southeast Region

In late August and throughout the month of September, Medicaid consumers in the Southeast region, comprised of Athens, Belmont, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Jackson, Jefferson, Harrison, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Washington and Vinton counties, will be receiving official notices to enroll in Medicaid managed care plans. Medicaid members in this part of Ohio will also be receiving comparison information about their managed care enrollment choices. The soonest Medicaid coverage through managed care plans can begin is October 1st, and we expect that the majority of consumers will be enrolled by November 1st.

OHP staff have received a number of telephone calls and e-mail messages expressing concern that there may not be sufficient MCP contracts with Medicaid providers based in West Virginia and Kentucky. This is of concern since Medicaid consumers in this part of the state historically may have sought their medical care from West Virginia or Kentucky based providers since they may be closer than providers in Ohio. The Office of Ohio Health Plans is investigating these concerns and responding by scheduling repeat information sessions with providers in border cities. The first session is scheduled for September 6th in Parkersburg, WV with providers affiliated with St. Joseph's Hospital.

Medicaid Consumers Benefit from Enrolling in Managed Care

During the debate to expand Medicaid managed care, much discussion focused on the benefits to state government in terms of cost containment, predictability, etc. However, it is important to remember that Medicaid managed care membership provides benefits to Medicaid consumers as well. Some examples are:

- **Reduced or no consumer co-payments.** Currently none of Ohio's Medicaid MCPs charge co-pays to their Medicaid members. So the cost sharing for pharmacy, dental, vision, and non-emergent ER visits is waived for Medicaid consumers who enroll in MCPs. In addition, providers do not have to collect co-pays from MCP members.
- **Access to a 24 hour/seven-day-per-week, toll free medical hotline staffed by medical professionals.** This toll free number is printed on the MCP membership card for every Medicaid MCP member. This medical advice line is a helpful resource for parents with sick babies and consumers who need assistance with medical problems when physician offices are closed.
- **Medical care management for consumers who have certain medical conditions or disabilities.** Care managers help coordinate medical visits and treatments, communicate test results among different medical providers and assist with care planning.
- **Information and assistance in comparing and selecting an MCP from the Medicaid Selection Services Center (SSC) at 1-800-605-3040.** Medicaid consumers can also change managed care plans during their initial three months of enrollment, during annual open enrollment periods or at any time for "just cause."