

Medicaid Managed Care Weekly

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Readiness Review Begins for Managed Care Plans Serving ABD Consumers

Managed care plans (MCPs) selected to serve a portion Ohio Medicaid consumers who are elderly or have disabilities (Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) Medicaid) are undergoing readiness review. In order to meet the December 31st readiness review deadline, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will maintain an intensive review schedule during the next few weeks.

What is Readiness Review?

Prior to enrolling Medicaid consumers into managed care arrangements, ODJFS utilizes a process called readiness review, which ensures that each MCP is prepared to fulfill all of the Medicaid Managed Care program's requirements. MCPs must successfully complete the ODJFS review before Medicaid provider agreements are offered and signed.

The readiness review process involves a detailed and comprehensive review of 24 crucial managed care program requirements. During this process, ODJFS evaluates the MCPs' systems and processes and makes recommendations for improvement. The readiness review process broadly focuses on issues related to access to care, case management, member communications, information systems, program integrity and provider networks.

Specific examples of ODJFS' evaluation include:

- The process by which the MCP will ensure the timely development of a care treatment plan for any member receiving case management services,
- The MCPs' strategies to identify and improve provider compliance with clinical guidelines,
- The MCPs' provider networks on a county-specific basis to ensure adequate access to services,
- All of the MCPs' proposed written communication to members (including Web sites, member handbooks, and marketing materials), and
- Information systems to ensure that they are functioning appropriately and that all information is processed and transmitted appropriately to providers, ODJFS and members.

Northeast Region Leads Off Enrollment of ABD Medicaid Consumers

The Medicaid managed care enrollment process officially began on December 1st for eligible ABD consumers in the Northeast region. On December 4th, enrollment notices were sent to consumers living in Ashtabula, Erie, Geauga, Huron, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties. Notices will be sent to eligible consumers in Cuyahoga county on December 18th. The first ABD members will begin receiving services through Medicaid Managed Care Jan. 1, 2007.

