



e-News for August 19, 2010

Academy News

IAFP releases case statement on Illinois Medicaid medical homes

The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians has released a case statement by the Robert Graham Center which details their thorough study of two Illinois Medicaid health care delivery programs. Illinois Health Connect (IHC) is the primary care case management program that formally links over 1.9 million Medicaid and All Kids patients to a primary care provider, who serves as their medical home and first point of care. Your Healthcare Plus (YHP) provides disease management services to 260,000 patients with certain chronic diseases that are identified for their high cost to the Medicaid system.

IAFP commissioned the case statement of Illinois Health Connect and Your Healthcare Plus to document the impact the programs have made in improving care for nearly two million participating Illinois patients.

Family medicine has long advocated for a medical home system built on a primary care foundation. Both these programs are built on a primary care foundation, led by family physician medical directors and succeed with the medical home model. IAFP leader Margaret Kirkegaard, MD is the medical director for Illinois Health Connect and second vice president Carrie Nelson, MD is the medical director for Your Healthcare Plus.

Read the full press release here <http://www.iafp.com/PR/Casepressrelease.pdf>

Read the full case statement here (18 page PDF file) <http://www.iafp.com/PR/CaseStatement.pdf>

SAVE THE DATE – IAFP Annual Meeting

December 3-4 in St. Louis, Mo. *Details to follow soon!*

Election results and the All-Member Assembly

FP of the Year and Teachers of the Year awards banquet

CME will include a continuation of some of the IAFP June 25-26 PCMH

Conference sessions, including E.H.R Meaningful Use, Point-of-Service technology in the office, Care management and the role of teams and e-Registry

IAFP member needed to fill opening on Illinois EMSC Advisory Board

IAFP supports the Illinois Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program and has a seat on their advisory board. The IAFP member position on this board is currently open and in need of a new family physician.

Illinois EMSC is a collaborative program between the Illinois Department of Public Health and Loyola University Medical Center, aimed at improving pediatric emergency care within Illinois. The goal of Illinois EMSC is to ensure that appropriate emergency medical care is available for ill and injured children at every point along the continuum of care.

The Advisory Board guides and provides oversight to the IL EMSC's endeavor to improve outcomes in the critically ill and injured child by enhancing pediatric emergency care capabilities and promoting pediatric illness/injury prevention initiatives within Illinois. The Board is composed of representatives from professional health care organizations, child advocate organizations, community service agencies and others vested in the care of children.

More information on EMSC and the Advisory Board can be found at <http://www.luhs.org/depts/emsc/>. If you are interested in this board position or know of a colleague who would be a good fit, please contact Vince Keenan, CAE, IAFP executive vice president, at vkeen@iafp.com.

Federal Government Relations

FMAP update

President Obama signed into law a bill (HR 1586) that included \$16.1 billion in additional federal Medicaid funding on Tuesday, August 10 after the House earlier in the day approved a state aid package by a 247-161 vote. The new law extends through June 2011 the temporary increase in Medicaid's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to help financially strapped states pay for additional coverage. It allows for payments to states on a sliding scale, starting with a 3.2 percent increase in the first quarter of 2011 and a 1.2 percent increase in the second quarter.

Get the facts on Meaningful Use

There is a lot of discussion surrounding the upcoming standards for electronic health records meaningful use incentives. It's important that you have a reliable resource to turn to for accurate information. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is the federal agency establishing these incentive programs. The CMS website is the official federal source for facts about the Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. The site contains up-to-date resources that will give you the insight you need to make educated decisions. Get the facts from the federal source – the CMS Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs website. Visit <http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms> for information.

State Government Relations

Gov. Quinn announces launch of high-risk insurance

Governor Quinn held a press conference August 19 at Mile Square Health Center on Chicago's West side to announce the start-up of Illinois' new federally-funded "high-risk pool," which of course is designed to provide affordable coverage for people with pre-existing conditions (<http://insurance.illinois.gov/IPXP>). The program will begin accepting applications August 20, with coverage to begin September 1 and will provide coverage until 2014 when private insurance companies are no longer allowed to exclude people with pre-existing conditions.

In Illinois, the federally-funded temporary high risk pool is called the Illinois Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (IPXP). The IPXP will be a transitional insurance program for uninsured Illinois residents. The IPXP is not a public aid or entitlement program. Enrollees will be required to pay a premium and out-of-pocket costs. There is a \$2,000 deductible and total out-of-pocket costs (beyond the monthly premiums) are limited to just under \$6,000 per year.

Illinois will receive approximately \$196 million in federal funding to operate the IPXP.

Back to school with asthma

Gov. Quinn is expected to sign new legislation that will allow children to carry and administer their quick-relief asthma inhalers at school without a note from a doctor. Instead, students will only need to submit note from a parent or guardian and a copy of their prescription. Parents/guardians should save the inhaler package from the pharmacy, which should include the prescription label. The school will need to see this packaging and will have a consent form for parents and guardians to sign.

Tips for going back to school

- Parents should make sure child has a written [Asthma Action Plan](#), and that the school nurse has a copy on file. Also, call the school to obtain any forms you may need to sign to allow your child to carry medication at school.
- Children should practice administering his or her asthma medication, and understand how important it is to keep the medicine close by at all times.
- If possible, keep an extra quick-relief inhaler with the school nurse.
- Remind children of the importance of general hygiene to ward off upper respiratory infections that exacerbate asthma symptoms.
- Get an annual flu vaccination. Kids with asthma are at increased risk for upper respiratory viral infections, including the flu.

CME Information

Radon Risk and Your Patients: Half day workshop in Springfield Sept. 25 3.5 AMA Category1 CME credits

Do you know that radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers? This conference is a chance to learn more about radon and how to communicate the risk to your patients. Sponsored by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, SIU School of Medicine Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU, American Lung Association in Illinois, SIUE School of Nursing and Illinois Environmental Health Association is offering a half day medical conference titled, *Radon Risk & Your Patients* at the Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU School of Medicine.

Link to more information and a registration form at

<http://www.siumed.edu/cme/pdf/Radon92410.pdf>

Questions? Contact Cindy Ladage at 217-785-9889 or cindy.ladage@illinois.gov



<http://www.pri-med.com>

Partnering with the IAFP, Pri-Med offers world-class CME programs in your area. Taught by leading experts, you can earn Continuing Medical Education credits at little or no cost. All activities listed are approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s). Application for AAFP Prescribed credit has been submitted.

Pri-Med Midwest - October 13-16, 2010

Annual 4-day conference and exhibition featuring Pre-Conference Symposia Day, *Current Clinical Issues in Primary Care* presented by Harvard Medical School & Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Practice Solutions, independent, non-Harvard Medical School accredited educational symposia, and a dynamic Exhibit Hall.

www.pri-med.com/ce

Top Caliber Online CME/CE

Access our fresh collection of online activities to reinforce and expand your knowledge between meetings.

Join the Discussion

Connect with clinicians nationwide and receive CME news updates instantly. Visit www.pri-med.com/social to get started.

News You Can Use

Campaign for Better Health Care hosts education forums on reform

Know someone who wants to learn more about the new health care law?

Below are *more than a dozen* HCJC-sponsored forums leading up to Sept 23, a key effective date for some of the law's provisions.

- Aug 24, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St., Downers Grove
- Aug 31, 6:30-8:30 pm, Thomas Ford Memorial Library, 800 Chestnut Street, Western Springs

Upcoming events with locations still to be determined

- > Sept 2 (Thurs), evening - Bloomington/Normal
- > Sept 8 (Wed), evening - Peoria
- > Sept 9 (Thurs), evening - Champaign
- > Sept 9 (Thurs), evening - Chicago's far western suburbs
- > Sept 14 (Tues), morning - Springfield
- > Sept 15 (Wed), afternoon - Rock Island
- > Sept 16 (Thurs), evening - La Grange
- > Sept 22 (Wed), afternoon - Rock Island
- > Sept 23 (Thurs) - Major provisions of the law take effect -

For details and to sign up, click [here](http://www.cbhconline.org/action/educational-forums/) <http://www.cbhconline.org/action/educational-forums/>. **RSVP required.** The forums will discuss how the new law impacts seniors, small businesses, providers, children, Medicaid, persons with disabilities, and consumers in general.

Lead Poisoning Prevention - Pregnancy through Preschool

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (conference sign-in will begin at 8:30 a.m.)

Cicero Community Building 2250 S. 49th Ave. Cicero, IL 60804

This conference is designed to assist primary care pediatricians, obstetricians and other professional nursing and medical personnel in understanding the risk of exposure to lead and subsequent health effects of lead poisoning.

This conference is FREE and registration is first come, first served, and may be done online at www.idph.state.il.us/training.htm. For questions regarding online registration, contact Vicky Ritz at 217-785-4475 or vicky.ritz@illinois.gov. Space is limited. Early registration is recommended. Free parking is available adjacent to the Community Center.

Repeat Items

Federal government unveils consumer resource for health care

The Department of Health and Human Services has announced a great new resource with the launch of www.healthcare.gov. Use this easy IAFP Print-and-Post flyer that you can place in waiting and exam rooms. <http://www.iafp.com/whatsnew/healthcare.pdf>

GAO to survey physicians on Medicaid and CHIP – give them input!

This summer, the US Government Accountability Office (GAO), a research arm of Congress, is conducting a national survey of primary and specialty physicians regarding their participation in Medicaid and CHIP programs. The survey will be mailed to a random sample of physicians, including family physicians. Please respond if you receive this survey in the mail since the results will be included in a report to Congress. They need to hear from the family physicians that care for these patients! Questions can be directed to Robin Richardson, AAFP State Government Affairs Analyst at rjrichardson@aafp.org.

AAFP Connect for Reform is now *Connect for Family Medicine*

While we hope that the health reform legislation is a good step forward in improving health care in this country, there are several [issues of concern to Family Medicine](#) that are subject to either legislative or regulatory action. As a member of AAFP's Connect for Family Medicine, you'll be informed and provided opportunities to take action.

Stay tuned to Connect for Family Medicine for the latest developments on issues important to family medicine. Check it out at <http://blogs.aafp.org/cfr/connect4reform/>

Members in the news

E-mail Ginnie Flynn at gflynn@iafp.com to share your media clips or to request a copy of any items listed below.

Case Statement on Medicaid Medical Homes generates media coverage. The case statement described at the top of this newsletter led to some high-profile media coverage. Read the Chicago Tribune's "Inside Health Care" Aug. 12 <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-biz-0812-notebook-health-20100811,0,7978094.story>

CNNMoney.com – Fortune story on Aug. 18
http://money.cnn.com/2010/08/18/news/economy/health-care_illinois_medical-home.fortune/

As you saw in the Federal GR section, Congress passed a bill to extend the higher FMAP rate to states until June 30, 2011. Although the rate will slightly decrease in 2011, the emergency bill will provide over \$500 million to Illinois Medicaid. IAFP second vice president **Carrie Nelson, MD** was interviewed by *Illinois Statehouse News* and article including her quote was in several central Illinois and Quad-Cities newspapers and the *Northwest Indiana Times*.

Dorothea Poulos, MD of Elgin made the case for Kane County Health Department in an Aug. 14th letter to the editor published in the *Daily Herald*. Poulos cited the valuable aid that state funded health programs at the county department provide to women and infants and that the county's physicians rely on the additional support from the county to help them take care of their patients. Poulos reports that infant mortality in Kane Co. has dropped more than 10 points in the 20 years that the health department has provided the public health services to women.

In Memoriam

Brenda Parks-Simmons, MD passed away on August 10 at the age of 38. She completed her residency training at West Suburban Family Medicine Residency program in Berwyn and then worked at PCC Wellness and then Circle Family HealthCare Network (CFHCN) serving residents

of Chicago's Westside communities. Dr. Parks-Simmons leaves behind her husband Hampton, and daughters Kara and Karrington.

Edward R. Abderholden, MD of Antioch died at home on August 3rd at the age of 83. He is largely known for helping create a program which trained Antioch paramedics advanced life support. The goal was to prevent patients dying during long transports to the nearest hospital. A year after he retired in 1997, the Antioch Rescue Squad made him an honorary member. He also helped launch a program at the local high school to introduce students to medical professions. All together, Dr. Abderholden cared for Antioch-area patients for nearly 40 years at his Orchard Medical Center practice, which now also includes his son, IAFP member Dr. Gary Abderholden.

Goodwin Toraason, MD of Peru passed away at his home on August 9. He was 87. He opened his practice in Peru in 1947 after serving in the U.S. Navy and continued to practice there until 2008.