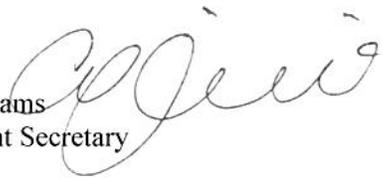




State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Bureau of Health Services Financing

MEMORANDUM

TO: CommunityCARE Providers

FROM: Don Gregory  Medicaid Director Clayton Williams  OPH Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Immunizations Provided in Primary Care Provider Offices

DATE: February 9, 2011

We are writing today to thank you for your service to Louisiana's children. You have played a critical role in ensuring more of our children are immunized on time than ever before. The Medicaid Immunization Pay-for-Performance (P4P) Program, which has been in place since July 2006, was implemented to promote timely immunizations of Louisiana Medicaid-eligible children and to increase the number of providers using the Louisiana Immunization Network for Kids Statewide (LINKS) registry.

As you are aware, the P4P Program rewards primary care providers (PCP) whose Medicaid patients adhere to a specific immunization schedule recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The monthly calculations are based on the number of children between 19 and 35 months of age who have an up-to-date immunization record in LINKS by 24-months-old, divided by the total number of children in that age group linked to a CommunityCARE 2.0 PCP. The following schedule is used to determine the quarterly supplemental payments received by qualifying providers:

- \$0.25 per Medicaid recipient younger than 21 years of age linked to the PCP if 60 to 74 percent of the above-mentioned children are up to date on the vaccine series 4:3:1:3:3:1 (4-DTaP, 3-IPV, 1-MMR, 3-HIB, 3-HEPB and 1-Varicella);
- \$0.50 per Medicaid recipient younger than 21 years of age linked to the PCP if 75 to 89 percent of the above-mentioned children are up to date on vaccine series 4:3:1:3:3:1; and
- \$1.00 per Medicaid recipient younger than 21 years of age linked to the PCP if 90 percent or more of the above-mentioned children are up to date on vaccine series 4:3:1:3:3:1.

LINKS sends Medicaid a monthly data file of all immunization records for children between the ages of 19 and 35 months to determine each provider's performance. A Social Security Number (SSN) is used to determine which children are enrolled in Medicaid. When an SSN is not present, the system will use the child's name and date of birth to determine whether there is a match. If there is any discrepancy, the child's two records (Medicaid and LINKS) may not be matched. Any child that cannot be matched is considered as not having services provided or having a blank immunization record; the PCP will not be

credited for these services and this will reflect in the calculation of the P4P incentive percentage rates, which are conducted quarterly to determine if the PCP is eligible for the P4P.

To address some concerns raised by providers participating in the Medicaid P4P program, effective February 1, 2011 an enhancement was made to also match records based on the Medicaid ID number the PCP entered into LINKS. The LINKS system already has the ability to accept the Medicaid ID number when a provider updates a child's immunization record or demographic information. By providing an additional opportunity to match a child's LINKS record to Medicaid, we believe we will address the concerns of the providers and more accurately reflect the number of children who are actually up to date on the immunizations counted in the P4P calculations.

We also would like to take this opportunity to clarify the difference between the P4P program and the Department's Office of Public Health's (OPH) Immunization Program's Vaccine for Children (VFC) program. The OPH Immunization Program conducts VFC chart review audits of all providers that have received a supply of vaccines through the VFC program. As part of this audit process, OPH requests providers who participate in the VFC program to pull medical charts on 50-60 children, both Medicaid and non-Medicaid recipients, younger than 24 months of age prior to their on-site visit. OPH representatives review the selected charts to verify the data entered into LINKS. From this limited review, an "up-to-date" calculation is determined for the practice, which represents the "estimated" percentage of 24-month-old children who are up to date for that particular PCP's practice. These audit results are not the same calculations used in the Medicaid P4P program, as they represent all 2-year-old children in the practice, not just the Medicaid-enrolled children. They represent two separate and distinct analyses.

We hope this provides greater clarification on the two programs administered by the Department. Our offices will continue to work together to streamline our programs, and we encourage you to continue to provide your input so together we can provide quality services to our residents.

Additional information about the LINKS registry can be obtained by contacting your region's OPH Immunization Consultant (see <https://linksweb.oph.dhh.louisiana.gov/linksweb/main.jsp>) or calling the OPH Immunization Office at (504) 838-5300. Molina Provider Relations should be contacted at (800) 473- 2783 or (225) 924-5040 for any additional questions.

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