

Provider Bulletin

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STATE BUDGET UPDATE: HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM

The State Budget has finally been enacted and as expected it's full of painful program reductions, especially in the areas of health and human services. These difficulties come at a time when CenCal Health has been operating Healthy Families in a deficit position for over two years.

First and foremost is the significant decrease in funding for the State's Healthy Families program. The California Children and Families Commission (First Five Commission) has made a commitment to provide additional funding in support of the program, however, even with this commitment, there remains too significant of a shortfall. Not only has an immediate enrollment freeze been adopted and waiting list established, but it has become necessary to disenroll children. At its August 27, 2009 meeting, the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) amended its determination that disenrollments from the Healthy Families Program begin October 1, 2009 and determined that disenrollments will begin November 1, 2009 instead. This amended determination is intended to allow the continuation of work by the Governor's Office, the Legislature, health plans, health advocates and others to develop a comprehensive solution that would fully fund the Healthy Families Program for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

Although we are somewhat unsure of the total impact, it is expected that up to half of CenCal Health's (and all Healthy Families participating health plans) enrollment levels to decrease by as much as 50% over the next 12 months. Children who are disenrolled from the program will be placed on the waiting list ahead of new applicants so that those who are still eligible could enroll first if sufficient funding became available and families will receive at least 30 days written notice. Certain children in the California Children's Services (CCS) program will not be disenrolled.

This is a truly sad development, especially given the proven success and effectiveness of the Healthy Families program over its now ten year lifespan. This is on top of existing enrollment waiting lists for CenCal Health's Healthy Kids programs, and coming changes to the In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program that will likely impact that program's enrollment levels.

The 2009/2010 fiscal year will be a year of adversity, one we will survive but a year of adversity nevertheless. Over the past 25 years, CenCal Health has advocated for the health and wellness of our community and will continue to campaign for the uninsured. We will keep you informed of developments and their impact to programs that we administer. CenCal Health would like to thank our provider network for the understanding and commitment to our membership. If you do have any questions relating to the State Budget, please don't hesitate to contact the Provider Services Department at (805) 685-9525, extension 1676.

AUTHORIZATION (ETAR) UPDATE

On September 1, 2009, CenCal Health will be implementing an internal conversion of our Authorization system. The conversion should be seamless to providers, except for a small change to our online authorization screen. Providers submitting electronic Treatment Authorization Requests (TARs) via our website, www.cencalhealth.org, will notice the screen becomes locked for processing after the close of business. Providers are advised to take care when completing the form, and ensure that changes are made within the same business day.

As a reminder, providers must submit requests for elective procedures prior to the expected date of service. The best turnaround time is still achieved utilizing the electronic TAR. Providers will be provided a decision within five (5) business days from the date of request only when all clinical information has been supplied. The easiest way to check the status of an authorization is by utilizing our website. To query the status of the request, providers should continue to use the Authorization Report found in the Providers Only (restricted) section of our website, under Reports.

For questions about CenCal Health's medical policies, clinical Utilization Management (UM) guidelines, or prior authorizations, providers should contact the UM Department at (805) 685-9525, extension 1820. For website instructions, providers should contact Provider Services at (805) 685-9525, extension 1676.

The Provider Bulletin is produced as a timely supplemental information service for provider office staff and is published monthly by the Provider Services Department. Questions and/or suggestions for articles may be made to:

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DECREASING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Clinician efforts to prescribe appropriately and to educate patients about antibiotics continue to play a vital role in decreasing antibiotic resistance levels. CenCal Health and The California Medical Association Foundation's Alliance Working for Antibiotic Resistance Education (AWARE) supports physician efforts to promote appropriate antibiotic use and decrease the incidence of antibiotic resistance.

We appreciate the challenges physicians face to increase patient knowledge and influence behavior. To assist you in addressing these challenges, AWARE has developed a toolkit that contains resources that support your work to educate your patients with information. This toolkit includes: Acute Respiratory Tract Infection Guideline Summary (Adult and Pediatric), office posters and patient education materials. All are offered in English and Spanish. For more information or to download additional materials, visit www.aware.md.

Your support is crucial to mitigate antibiotic resistance and improve patient safety and clinical quality. To comply with established prescribing guidelines, when a patient is diagnosed with *pharyngitis*, a Group A Streptococcus (Strep) test should be performed prior to prescribing an antibiotic. In an effort to promote appropriate antibiotic use and decrease the incidence of antibiotic resistance, [effective October 01, 2009 until March 31, 2010](#), CenCal Health will temporarily double the allowable reimbursement for Rapid Antigen Detection Group A Strep tests. For Medi-Cal recipients, the reimbursement will be \$25.26 instead of \$12.63. The reimbursement for Healthy Kids, Healthy Families, Prenatal Plus 2, and IHSS program members will be \$32.54 instead of \$15.57. For billing, use CPT code 87880 and modifier QW (CLIA-waived test) for all CenCal Health Programs.

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

CenCal Health will be closed on Monday September 7th in observance of Labor Day.

CALIFORNIA WOMEN, INFANTS, CHILDREN (WIC) CHANGES

Beginning October 1, 2009, the food packages provided by the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, and medical documentation requirements will change in California. New WIC foods will support both the American Academy of Pediatrics feeding guidelines and Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Changes include a greater variety of foods, more incentives for exclusively breastfeeding women, and supervision by clinicians for participants with medical conditions.



New WIC Food Packages and Breastfeeding Incentive

Below is what you should know about the new WIC food benefits:

- For the first time, fruits and vegetables are available to all WIC participants.
- Incentives for breastfeeding include reducing the formula allowance for partially breastfed infants, and expanding the amount of food for nursing mothers.
- Infants 6 to 11 months old will receive less formula and more baby food items.
- Infants will no longer receive juice.
- Allowances for milk, eggs and juice have been reduced.
- Soy-based beverages and tofu can be substituted for milk and cheese.

Documentation Requirements

Due to the greater number and variety of WIC foods, you must now use the revised WIC Referral Form to document both the type and amounts of WIC foods you issue to infants and children with special needs. Also, a qualifying condition will be required for children to receive soy milk or tofu from WIC.

To view these medical documentation requirements, go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/regspublished/foodpackages-interimrule.htm>.

Information about the new WIC food packages and the WIC Healthy Habits campaign can be found at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/pages/default.aspx. (Click on Health Professionals to find the new WIC Referral Form).

For more information about the new WIC benefits, please email MD-WIC@cdph.ca.gov or contact your local WIC dietitian at www.wicworks.ca.gov (go to Health Professionals, click on MD-WIC Network).



ADOLESCENT WELL CARE CAMPAIGN

Annual exams for teenagers are recommended by the American Medical Association and American Academy of Pediatrics. To provide you with extra reimbursement for this important exam, CenCal Health pays fee-for-service for the annual teen well-care exam. Whenever you schedule an appointment for a Santa Barbara Health Initiative (SBHI), San Luis Obispo Health Initiative (SLOHI), or Healthy Families (HF) member between the ages of 12 to 21, please make time to perform a complete

well-care exam by adding a few minutes to the scheduled visit or by making an appointment for the teen to return as soon as possible.

Due to the success of the 2008 Teen Well Care Exam promotion, CenCal Health is offering the program again during the months of August through October 2009 in both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties! We encourage your participation to improve the care and well being of our adolescent population that can sometimes be difficult to reach and in doing so become **eligible to win** a catered lunch for up to 10 of your staff employees. If you have any questions regarding this campaign, please contact Sheila Thompson at (805) 685-9525, extension 1677.

2009 CPT-4/HCPCS Updates: Implementation September 1, 2009

The 2009 updates to the CPT-4 and HCPCS National Level II codes will be effective for Medi-Cal for dates of service on or after September 1, 2009. At this time CenCal Health’s Medi-Cal program will also implement the 2009 updates. The affected codes are currently listed within the June 2009 EDS Medical Services Provider Manual Bulletin which can be found online at www.medi-cal.ca.gov. Only those codes representing current or future Medi-Cal benefits are included. Please refer to the 2009 CPT-4 and HCPCS Level II code books for complete descriptions of these codes. If you have questions, please contact the Claims Department at (805) 685-9525 extension 1823.

REMINDER The 2009 CPT-4/HCPCS codes were adopted by CenCal Health’s non-Medi-Cal programs effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2009.

Changes to CPT/HCPCS Codes:

CenCal Health will accept the new 2009 CPT and HCPCS codes for our Medi-Cal program for **dates of service on and after September 1, 2009**. Below is the list of deleted codes with the replacement codes:

Deleted Codes	Replacement Codes	Deleted Codes	Replacement Codes
J7340	Q4101	90771	96371
J7342	Q4106	90772	96372
J7343	Q4104	90773	96373
L7611	L6711	90774	96374
L7612	L6712	90775	96375
L7613	L6713	90779	96379
L7614	L6714	90918, 90922	90951-90953, 90963, 90967
L7621	L6721	90919, 90923	90954-90956, 90964, 90968
L7622	L6722	90920, 90924	90957-90959, 90965, 90969
S2075	49652-49657	90921, 90925	90960-90962, 90966, 90970
S2076	49652-49657	90918, 90922	90951-90953, 90963, 90967
S2077	49652-49657	93727	93285, 93291, 93298
52606	52214	93731	93280, 93288, 93294
52612	52601	93732	93280, 93294
52614	52601	93733	93293
52620	52630	93734	93279, 93288, 93294
61793	61796-61800 or 63620, 63621	93735	93279, 93288, 93294
77781	77785, 77786	93736	93293
77782-77783	77785-77787	93741, 93742	93282, 93289, 93292, 93295
77784	77785-77787	93743, 93744	93283, 93289, 93295
88400	88720	99289	99466
90760	96360	99290	99467
90761	96361	99431	99460
90765	96365	99432	99461
90766	96366	99433	99462
90767	96367	99436	99464
90768	96368	99440	99465
90769	96369		
90770	96370		