

Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification

CMCS Informational Bulletin

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SUBJECT: CHIPRA Anniversary and Guidance on the Core Set of Child Health Quality Measures

We are pleased to acknowledge the great progress States and communities have made over the past two years since the passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) in advancing children's coverage and elevating the conversation about improving the quality of the care they receive.

In addition to several announcements related to the 2nd anniversary of CHIPRA, this Informational Bulletin provides additional guidance for States choosing to voluntarily report the initial core set of quality measures for children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

- **CHIPRA Anniversary Report.** To mark the second anniversary of CHIPRA, today we are releasing the 2010 CHIPRA anniversary report, *"Connecting Kids to Coverage: Continuing the Progress"* that highlights state, federal and community efforts to enroll all eligible children in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. The report is available at http://insurekidsnow.gov/professionals/reports/chipra/2010_annual.pdf
- **\$40 million in Outreach and Enrollment Grant Funds Available.** CMS is releasing a funding opportunity announcement for a second round of \$40 million in CHIPRA outreach and enrollment grants to States, local governments, community-based and nonprofit organizations, tribes and others to support outreach activities and enrollment of children who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP. This "Cycle II" grant solicitation encourages prospective grantees to focus their efforts in one of the following Focus Areas:
 - Using Technology to Facilitate Enrollment and Renewal
 - Focusing on Retention: Keeping Eligible Children Covered for as Long as They Qualify
 - Engaging Schools in Outreach, Enrollment and Renewal Activities
 - Reaching Out to Groups of Children that are More Likely to Experience Gaps in Coverage
 - Ensuring Eligible Teens Are Enrolled and Stay Covered

Applications are due on April 18, 2011 and awards will be announced in July 2011. CMS will be holding its first applicant teleconference on **February 15, 2011 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST**. The solicitation can be found on www.grants.gov under CFDA 93.767.

- **FY 2010 Children's Enrollment Data.** The third announcement for today is the release of the State-by-State FY 2010 Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment data as reported to CMS through the Statistical Enrollment Data System (SEDS). We are pleased to report that over the past year, Children's Medicaid and CHIP enrollment increased by over 2 million children (October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010). Together, the Medicaid and CHIP programs have served more than 42 million children over the course of the year.

To make the promise of coverage a reality for uninsured children, a year ago, Secretary Sebelius announced Connecting Kids to Coverage Challenge, designed to engage government and all organizations with a stake in advancing children's coverage to take affirmative steps toward enrolling all eligible uninsured children in Medicaid and CHIP. With support from CHIPRA, States and a wide range of stakeholders, including community organizations, health care providers, schools and others, are stepping up to the Challenge. The results of their efforts are evident in the increased FY 2010 Medicaid and CHIP enrollment numbers we are releasing today. See http://insurekidsnow.gov/professionals/reports/chipra/2010_enrollment_data.pdf

- **Child Health Quality Measures Manual.** As you know, CHIPRA includes a broad range of provisions designed to improve the quality of health care provided to children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. Among many other things, Section 401 of CHIPRA called for the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to identify an initial core set of recommended child health care quality measures for voluntary use by State Medicaid and CHIP programs. The initial core set of quality measures will be officially released in a letter to State Health Officials that will be issued later this month.

CMS is pleased to release today the CHIPRA Initial Core Measures Technical Specifications Manual for 2011. Within this manual, States will find information on how to collect data for the core measures and the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey. By adhering to the standardized methodologies outlined in the specifications manual, CMS and States will have available, for the first time, information that can be used for State and national comparisons. In addition, CMS will be providing technical assistance and analytic support to increase the number of States consistently collecting and uniformly reporting on the core measures, and to help States understand how to use these data to improve the quality of care for children.

As always, we remain committed to working with States to augment their understanding of the CHIPRA initial core measures and to assist you in your efforts to begin collecting, reporting, and using these measures to drive quality improvement. We hope you will find the technical specifications helpful as you consider voluntarily reporting these child health quality measures to CMS. Comments and questions regarding the technical specifications may be directed to: CHIPRAQualityTA@cms.hhs.gov. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to measure, monitor, and improve the quality of health care for children in Medicaid and CHIP. The CHIPRA Initial Core Measures Technical Specifications Manual for 2011 can be accessed at:

<http://www.cms.gov/MedicaidCHIPQualPrac/Downloads/CHIPRACoreSetTechManual.pdf>

We hope you will find this information helpful. Thank you for your commitment to these critical children's coverage programs.