



Legislative Update: Contraceptive Equity in Oregon

As you know, the 2007 legislative session produced a new law requiring that insurance plans provide coverage for prescription contraceptives if they cover other prescription drugs. The law takes effect on January 1, and many of you have been asking how this will affect family planning clients and programs. We don't yet have all the answers on that, but here are some to get you started.

Q: Come January, will every client with insurance automatically have coverage for contraception?

A: No. There are several kinds of insurance plans to which the law does not apply. Obviously, clients who don't already have coverage for other prescription drugs will not be affected; limited plans like indemnity only or short-term policies (less than 6 months, including renewals) are also exempt. Even where the law does apply, the plan may not change on January 1st. Women who are in the middle of a period of coverage may not acquire the new benefit until their policy is renewed.

What this means is that you should continue to ask potential FPEP clients whether their insurance includes coverage for contraceptive management. Those who say no are eligible. Those who don't know what their policies cover should be given the same advice you have been giving all year.

Q: Which methods will be covered?

A: The law says "prescription contraceptives" and goes on to define contraceptive as "a drug or device approved by the FDA to prevent pregnancy." We take this to mean that non-pharmaceutical methods that must nevertheless be ordered or prescribed by a physician, e.g. a Copper-T IUD, are included in the mandate.

Q: Will insurance companies be required to reimburse family planning clinics?

A: For the time being, no. We're working with the Insurance Division to improve this. If clients belong to an HMO or PPO and are coming to you for out-of-network services, they are still considered insured for purposes of FPEP eligibility and so cannot be enrolled.

Contraceptive Update: IUDs

Did you know...

The Duramed pharmaceutical company has a policy to supply free replacements of ParaGard IUDs if one is dropped or otherwise inadvertently contaminated, or if it has been expelled or removed for medical reasons within 90 days of insertion. You can obtain a ParaGard Replacement Product Request Form by calling the customer service office at 1-877-Paragard.

Save the Date!

Spring Statewide Family Planning Coordinator Meeting

The next Statewide Family Planning Coordinator Meeting will be Thursday, April 24th and Friday, April 25th at the Portland State Office Building. We plan to offer a brief orientation to the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards for health care and other special topics to continue our discussion of clinic efficiency.

Training and Education

Register Now: NetLink Training on Title X and FPEP Vasectomy Services Jan. 15th

A step-by-step explanation of the process for enrolling men for vasectomy services in FPEP and Title X clinics will be given via NetLink from 1 to 3pm on Tuesday January 15th. Visit the DHS Learning Center to sign up: <https://dhslearn.hr.state.or.us/>

Detailed instructions on how to register are available on our website:
www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/fp/providers.shtml#TrainingUpdates

Clinical Update on Intrauterine Contraception – January 26th in Seattle

Planned Parenthood of Western Washington is offering a free CME training on intrauterine contraception on January 26th, from 9 to 11:30 am in Seattle. A hands-on Copper T IUD and levonorgestrel intrauterine system (LNG IUS) insertion practicum will follow the didactic presentation. Pre-registration is required; see attached flyer for more details.

Resources

2008 Oregon Plan to Promote Youth Sexual Health – DRAFT Available

The State Adolescent Health Program is writing the 2008 Oregon Plan to Promote Youth Sexual Health. The last day to provide feedback is this Monday, December 17th! You may view the draft at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ah/feedback.shtml>.

New Links on our Website!

Check out the recently updated Related Links section of the State Family Planning Program website at http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/fp/related_links.shtml. The links are grouped by the following topics: Birth Control, Emergency Contraception, Sexual Assault, Teens, DHS Resources, National Organizations, International Organizations, Other.

Article Link: Inspiring Healthy Adolescent Choices

The Journal of Adolescent Health features an article titled “Inspiring Healthy Adolescent Choices: A Rationale for and Guide to Strength Promotion in Primary Care”, available at <http://www.jahonline.org/article/PIIS1054139X07002406/fulltext>.