



General News

More Information on Contraceptive Equity

In discussions with officials at the Insurance Division, we've learned that the new contraceptive equity law will probably affect fewer people than we had hoped. The Insurance Division estimates that only one third or one half of Oregonians have the kind of health insurance to which the new law applies and that somewhere around 85% of those people already have contraceptive coverage as part of their plans. Based on these estimates, less than 10% of insured Oregonians will see a change in coverage as a result of the new law. It's therefore important that you continue to ask potential FPEP clients what their insurance does and does not cover.

With respect to the question of which methods might be covered, commercial insurance carriers establish their own formularies, meaning they may legally cover some methods and not others. However, Insurance Division staff members regularly review formularies and confirm that companies are not singling out contraceptives for reduced coverage.

Clients who run into difficulty getting coverage information or reimbursement from their insurance carriers should be referred to the Insurance Division's Consumer Advocacy Unit to file a complaint. Contact them toll-free at 888-877-4894 or use the online complaint form at: <http://insurance.oregon.gov/consumer/tomake.html>

2008 CVR Submission Cut-off Dates

As usual, the monthly CVR cut-off date will be the Thursday before the 15th of each month. CVRs submitted by the cut-off will be processed and, in the case of FPEP claims, paid at the end of that same month. A full schedule for 2008 is attached.

Title X

Title X Receives National Funding Increase!

On December 26th, President Bush signed an omnibus FY08 appropriations bill that included a \$16.8 million funding increase for Title X – the third largest increase in 25 years! It remains to be seen what portion of that amount will trickle down to Oregon and out to you, but we're happy to be able to pass this good news along.

FPEP

Problems with the November OHP Eligibility Check

Several of you have noticed problems with the Medicaid eligibility reports generated as part of the November FPEP claims processing – incorrect Medicaid IDs, Social Security Numbers, and/or eligibility dates. Ahlers is aware of the problem and will make corrections this month. Claims that were rejected incorrectly will be reprocessed (no need for you to resubmit them) and those that were paid inappropriately will be voided. Please call Ahlers Customer Service at 1-800-888-1836 x140 with any questions.

Rejections for Expired Eligibility

We've noticed a high number of claims rejected in the past few months because "FPEP Eligibility has expired." In checking on a few of these rejections, we've also noticed that people are going into the FPEP Eligibility Database to change a client's eligibility dates after a claim has already been rejected, as in this scenario:

- On November 1, 2006 (when the FPEP Eligibility Database went live), client's eligibility dates are listed as 9/26/2005 to 9/26/2006.
- In November 2007, clinic submits an FPEP claim for DOS 2/1/2007. It is rejected because the client's FPEP eligibility has expired.
- In December 2007, the clinic updates the client's record in the Eligibility Database to show eligibility of 7/24/2006 to 7/24/2007, which includes the date of the rejected claim.

As a reminder, you should always check the make sure that a client has active eligibility *before* providing services and submitting an FPEP claim. Check the FPEP Eligibility Database and update the record as necessary, making sure that you have signed hard copies of the client's FPEP Enrollment Form(s) on file to substantiate the eligibility data.

Training and Education

Dates Changed - Spring Statewide Family Planning Coordinator Meeting

The next Statewide Family Planning Coordinator Meeting will be **Monday April 21st and Tuesday April 22nd**, not the 24th and 25th as announced earlier. It will take place 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.

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.

Free Online Health Literacy Training for Health Professionals

The Health Resources and Services Administration is offering a “a free online learning experience designed to help health professionals improve their patient communication skills, increase their awareness and knowledge of factors that affect their communication with patients, and implement patient-centered communication practices.” It’s a five-module, five-hour course that can be completed at your own pace and taken for credit or not for credit. More information at:

<http://www.hrsa.gov/healthliteracy/training.htm>

Resources

CDC Press Release – Teen Birth Rate Rises for first time in 14 years

The 2006 teen (15-19 year old) birth rate represents the first increase since 1991. The press release and a link to the full report is available here:

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/Media/pressrel/2007/r071205.htm>

Lit Review - Quality of Family Planning Services in the U.S.

The December edition of Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health includes a very handy review of the literature on family planning service quality in the U.S. The article is available for free here:

<http://www.alangutmacher.org/pubs/psrh/full/3920607.pdf>