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Perinatal Advisory Council of Los Angeles Communities

Winter 1996/97

The Transition to Medi-Cal Managed Care in Los Angeles County

The transition process of any condition and/or state is always fraught with confusion and necessary questioning. As Los Angeles County moves its Medi-Cal beneficiaries into the two model plan for Medi-Cal Managed Care, both the providers and consumers are experiencing problems with maintaining continuity of care, selection of providers and plans, and enrollment difficulties. Consumer applicants are often confused by the cumbersome "Medi-Cal Choice" packet they have received and complete the packet erroneously and/or neglect to fill out the packet. In this application process, the consumer is allowed to select either a Medi-Cal Health Plan (Pre-paid Health Plan or PHP) or remain in the "Regular" or "Fee for Service" Medi-Cal. If for whatever reason the applicant does not complete the application or if there is partial completion of the form, they are automatically "defaulted" and placed into one of the Pre-paid Health Plans offered by the county. This default process often causes delay in services for patients and concern arises in the impact on maintaining much needed medical services (pharmacy, treatments, clinical care). Consumer advocates are attempting to ease this transition phase as much as possible by recommending changes to the enrollment packet be made to simplify the process and ensure continuation of services. Health care providers can assist their patients in completing the application process and providing them with telephone numbers should they choose to dis-enroll from a Medi-Cal Health Plan (English: 1-800-430-4263 or Spanish: 1-800-430-3003). If providers would like to give information regarding specific patient's difficulties (including patient's name and social security number) during the enrollment/default process, please contact Lynn Kersey (Maternal and Child Health Access) with this information via FAX at (213) 745-1040.

Three Statewide Task Forces have been convened to proceed on the recommendation made as a result of the Perinatal Facilities Interview conducted in 320 facilities from September 1995 through February 1996. During an October 21st meeting conducted in Los Angeles, the Coordinators and Directors of the Regional Perinatal Programs of California created a) Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), b) Education, and c) Transport task forces to develop activities as it pertains to risk appropriate care for very low birthweight deliveries and neonates. Issues that will be incorporated into the various task forces include: adverse outcome review process, disparity transport criteria, consumer education, post transport follow up, multiple (2 stop) transports, back transports, and staff education on management of high risk pregnancies. For more information contact Marisa @ PAC/LAC (818) 382-3956, Lisa @ Community Perinatal Network (213) 725-0199, Sandy or Judy @ Long Beach Perinatal Outreach Program (310) 933-3291, and Cindy @ South Bay Perinatal Access Project (310) 222-3651.

It's Time to Become a "Teen Friendly" Provider !!!

The "Teen Friendly" Prenatal Guidelines of Care will be presented early in 1997. The Guidelines, developed specifically for this program, will be distributed during the seminar presentation. The courses will be presented in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. This seminar is recommended for all health care providers who come in contact with the pregnant teen and her family. No matter what service you provide for the teen (health education, direct clinical services, appointment scheduling), this seminar is for you. Upon completion of the course you will receive a certificate declaring you a "Teen Friendly" prenatal care provider. Please contact the PAC/LAC office for the date and time of the free seminar nearest you and register early.