



**Rhode Island Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee (MCAC)
Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2009
Louis Pasteur Building, 7:00 AM**

MCAC Committee Attending: Mark Braun, Catherine Cummings, MD, Dave Feeney, Jerry Fingerut, MD, Marie Ghazal, RN, Mack Johnston, MD, Elizabeth Lange, MD, Gus Manocchia, MD, Renee Rulin, MD, Craig Syata, Richard Wagner, MD

MCAC Chair & Ex Officio Members Attending: Ray Maxim, MD, David Gifford, MD, Elena Nicolella

State Staff Attending: Patricia Martinez, Corinne Calise-Russo, Ellen Mauro, RN, Ralph Racca

Members of the Public Attending: Elizabeth Earles, Doreen McConaghy, Jody Rich, MD, Laura Oliven, Bill White, Alan Post, DC, Paul Block, PhD, Michael Ryan

Support Staff: Marty Dellapenna, Marge Ware

Meeting Began: 7:07 AM

Attendee Introductions

Committee Mission

The Committee's purpose is to offer input to the State on medical issues affecting the Medicaid program. The Department of Human Services (DHS) needs a clear understanding of both stakeholder issues as well as Medicaid's impact on other social services when policy is being considered. Committee input will be crafted into recommendations by the MCAC Chair for submission to the State for approval.

Review of the Draft MCAC Charter

The draft MCAC Charter document was addressed. The Committee can still offer input to the draft Charter before it is finalized. Any additional comments can be e-mailed to the Committee Chair, Dr. Ray Maxim at Rmaxim@dhs.ri.gov or raymaxim@msn.com.

Future Topics for Discussion

- SAMHSA's Screening, Brief intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) program
- Pain Management
- Physical Therapy prior to certain surgeries

Group Discussion:

- The H1N1 virus and Medicaid's Response:
Committee indicated Medicaid needed to be aware of the additional steps physician practices and hospitals were taking to prepare for the H1N1 and seasonal flu season. Some suggested areas for Medicaid involvement included increasing the administration fee for the vaccine and roster billing.
A clarification was made that Tamiflu is covered under Medicaid

Follow-up: Medicaid is in the process of exploring where the program might support efforts to address increased need due to the H1N1 virus and will provide a report to the Committee by November 15.

- Need to address better coordination when people leave nursing facilities without sufficient prescription drugs

Follow-up: Further discussion at December meeting

- Facilitating Access to Medicaid for individuals leaving ACI

Follow-up: Medicaid is meeting with Department of Corrections. Update will be provided to Committee

- Request for a summary/update on the Connect Care Choice Program- Recent update can be shared with the Committee but full program analytics will not be available until first quarter 2010.

Follow-up: Will be on agenda at December meeting

- Acute Stabilization Unit for Behavioral Health:
This is a collaborative effort between MHRH and DHS to provide a step-down unit in order to divert people from unnecessary admission to a hospital.

Follow-up: Centers for Medicare&Medicaid Services (CMS) approved this service on 10/29/2009. It will be available in November.

- Limit on Emergency Dept. (ED) visits to 12 per year:
This budget savings initiative will not be implemented.

Budget Initiatives

Elena outlined the State's goal of funding potential savings in the department's budget. Changes or reductions to Medicaid beneficiary eligibility must be considered very carefully as Federal funds for "Costs Not Otherwise Matchable" (CNOM) are now available for some services once covered by state-only dollars. Medicaid eligibility may be considered as part of a savings initiative but not until after January 2010. This leaves provider rates and benefits as two potential avenues for cost savings. DHS's approach will be made clearer to the Committee by the next meeting.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

1. Budget Overview
2. Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) information to the Committee
3. Connect Care Choice Update

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 9, 2009 (7:00 AM – 8:00 AM)

Meeting Adjourned: 8:12 AM