



TO: Fee-for-Service Health Care Providers

FROM: Jon Barley, Ph.D., Chief, Bureau of Managed Health Care

DATE: July 22, 2005

SUBJECT: Mandatory Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment in Hamilton County

This is to inform you that the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), as part of its expansion of the Medicaid managed care program, is entering into a provider agreement with AMERIGROUP Ohio, Inc. (doing business as AMERIGROUP Community Care), to provide Medicaid-covered services to Covered Families and Children (CFC) Medicaid consumers in Hamilton County. AMERIGROUP's entry into the Hamilton County market in August 2005 means that consumers will again have the choice of two managed care plans (MCPs) in which to enroll: AMERIGROUP and CareSource.

With the addition of a second plan, ODJFS will return Hamilton County to mandatory enrollment status. This means that beginning in August 2005, CFC consumers (also referred to Healthy Start, Healthy Families) who are not enrolled in an MCP will receive official notice that they must soon choose an MCP for themselves and eligible family members. Those who do not choose a plan will be assigned to one.

Once Hamilton becomes a mandatory enrollment county almost all CFC consumers will be enrolled in an MCP. Therefore you will need to be contracted with AMERIGROUP or CareSource in order to receive reimbursement for providing services to CFC consumers enrolled in one of these MCPs. For additional information, Medicaid providers may contact the MCPs directly:

AMERIGROUP	513-733-2300	Lisa R. Walters
CareSource	937-531-2119	Nicole Beadle

Please be aware that at this time mandatory enrollment only affects CFC consumers. Mandatory enrollment does **not** affect consumers who are eligible for Medicaid because they are Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD). In addition, MCP membership is not required for children under nineteen years of age who are: eligible for Social Security Income (SSI); receiving adoption assistance, in foster care, or removed from the parent or

guardian's home due to a legal change in custody; or receiving services through the Ohio Department of Health's Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh). Individuals have the opportunity to declare children's eligibility for exemption under these circumstances at the time of choosing a plan. Upon verification by ODJFS, children will be exempted from managed care membership and continue to receive a Medicaid card as long as they remain under nineteen, qualify for SSI, receive adoption assistance, are in foster care, removed from the parent's or guardian's home, or are receiving services through BCMh. Parents or guardians of MCP members under age nineteen who qualify may request exemption for a child(ren) by calling the State's Selection Services Center (SSC) at 1-800-605-3040 (TTY 1-800-292-3572) to request exemption. Upon verification by ODJFS, such children will be disenrolled from the MCP.

Letters and a county-specific consumer guide will soon be mailed to CFC consumers in Hamilton County. The letter informs consumers about mandatory MCP enrollment and explains that they will soon need to choose an MCP. The guide provides basic information about the MCPs available and some helpful hints in choosing an MCP. Consumers may contact the SSC to receive additional information and assistance in making a choice. If one of your patients is interested in learning more about choosing an MCP they may call the SSC after August 1, 2005.

Consumers who make a choice of an MCP in August 2005 may be enrolled in the MCP as early as September 1, 2005. New members will receive an MCP information packet and an MCP member identification card in place of their monthly Medicaid card. To verify a patient's enrollment in an MCP you may contact the Ohio Medicaid Interactive Voice Response System (IVR) at 1-800-686-1516.

Please be aware that MCP providers must meet MCP-specific contracting and credentialing requirements; however, MCPs are not required to contract with all FFS providers.

For additional information about the Medicaid managed care program please visit our web site at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/bmhc>. The web site is currently being upgraded in order to make it easier for providers to navigate and locate information quickly. In addition, you may wish to check the web site periodically for updates regarding the managed care program in general, and Hamilton County in particular.

Should you have any further questions regarding Medicaid managed care enrollment in Hamilton County, please contact Chris Heldman at (614) 466-4693.

cc: BMHC