

MEMO

January 26, 2012

TO: Hospital CEO

FROM: Herb B. Kuhn 
President and CEO
Missouri Hospital Association

Ian McCaslin, M.D. 
Director
MO HealthNet Division

SUBJECT: Medicaid Health Home Initiative

We are pleased to announce that Missouri is the first state in the country to implement the Medicaid Health Home Initiative. The purpose of the health home is to assist Medicaid participants in managing their chronic physical and behavioral health conditions. The initiative is expected to improve health outcomes and reduce healthcare costs through care coordination across all health issues.

This is a major priority of the Missouri MO HealthNet Division and the Missouri Department of Mental Health. The MHA Board of Trustees supports the development of new and innovative ideas aimed at reducing costs and improving efficiency of the care we deliver. The Medicaid Health Home Initiative is a good example of an excellent idea moving forward.

This letter is asking for your support in making the Medicaid Health Home Initiative a success. Mo HealthNet has designated an initial set of 25 primary care health homes and 27 community mental health centers. They may be contacting your hospitals to establish collaborative relationships necessary to ensure appropriate coordination of care for individuals who choose to enroll in the Health Homes. Coordination is required in the areas of hospital admissions and discharges, emergency room visits and re-hospitalizations, and referral for health home enrollment.

Thank you for your consideration in forging positive partnerships with the Medicaid Health Homes and achieving improved outcomes with reduced costs for Missourians with chronic health care needs.

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attachment

HEALTH HOMES AND MISSOURI HOSPITALS

A NEW MEDICAID BENEFIT

A Medicaid benefit now is available to provide health home services to individuals with certain chronic illnesses. MO HealthNet has designated 25 primary care health homes and 27 community mental health centers.

Primary Care Health Homes

- focus on children and adults who have diabetes, or who have, or are at risk of having, two or more specific chronic diseases or conditions (COPD/asthma, cardiovascular disease, BMI>25), or who have one of these chronic diseases or conditions and use tobacco
- provide primary care services
- ensure access to, and coordinate care across, prevention, primary care, and specialty medical care services, including specialty mental health services
- promote healthy lifestyles, and support individuals in managing their chronic health conditions

CMHC Healthcare Homes

- focus on children and adults with serious mental illness, or with a mental health condition and substance abuse disorder, or with either a mental health condition or substance abuse disorder and another chronic health condition
- provide psychiatric rehabilitation services
- ensure access to, and coordinate care across, prevention, primary care, and specialty medical care services
- promote healthy lifestyles, and support individuals in managing their chronic health conditions

More than 17,000 Missourians initially have been enrolled in CMHC healthcare homes, and more than 20,000 Missourians have been enrolled in primary care health homes.

Hospital Admissions and Discharges

Both primary care health homes and CMHC healthcare homes will be receiving same-day notice via email of prior authorizations for hospitalizations for all the individuals enrolled in a health home, and are required to monitor the individual's hospitalization, participate in hospital discharge planning, and follow up on hospital discharges for these individuals. As a result, the primary care health homes and CMHC healthcare homes will be contacting hospitals serving their area to make arrangements for collaborating to fulfill their responsibility to coordinate care for these individuals. The Missouri Hospital Association, in collaboration with MO HealthNet, the Missouri Department of Mental Health, Missouri Primary Care Association, and the Missouri Coalition of Community Mental Health Centers, has prepared a model Memorandum of Understanding that can be used as a tool in establishing the collaborative relationships that will be necessary to ensure appropriate coordination of care for these individuals.

Emergency Room Visits and Re-hospitalizations

Both primary care health homes and CMHC healthcare homes also will be interested in working with the individuals they serve and hospitals to avoid unnecessary utilization of emergency room services and to minimize the risk of re-hospitalization. Because of the many factors that lead to re-hospitalization, and that influence emergency room utilization and the complexity of emergency room operations, developing a collaborative approach to reducing unnecessary emergency room visits is likely to be a challenging, but potentially rewarding endeavor.

Referral for Health Home Enrollment

Hospitals may identify individuals they are serving who they believe could benefit from being enrolled in a primary care health home or CMHC healthcare home. Both primary care health homes and CMHC healthcare homes may enroll new individuals in their health home, though they are not obligated to enroll individuals who are referred to them. Hospitals may want to develop referral agreements with local primary care health homes and CMHC healthcare homes to facilitate enrollment of individuals who could benefit from this new Medicaid benefit. (A description of the criteria for enrollment for each type of health home is attached.)

Sharing PHI

Health Homes provide coordination or management of health care and related services (i.e. social, rehabilitative, or other services that are associated with the provision of health care) by one or more health care providers including coordination or management of health care with third party health care providers, referral of a patient for health care from one health care provider to another, and consultation between health care providers. HIPAA does not require authorization from the patient in order to disclose personal health information for these activities per 45 CFR 164.501.

Additional information regarding both types of health homes can be accessed on the Department of Mental Health website at: www.dmh.mo.gov/about/chieclinicalofficer/healthcarehomes.htm.

Source: Missouri Department of Mental Health