



Ohio Medicaid Open Enrollment Period Begins!

The statewide Open Enrollment Period (OEP) for Ohio Medicaid begins on November 1, 2009. During open enrollment, Medicaid consumers have the option to change their managed care plan. Medicaid consumers can call the Ohio Managed Care Enrollment Center (MCEC) at 1-800-605-3040 to make any enrollment changes. If consumers elect to make a change on or before November 23, their membership will be effective on December 1. Changes made between November 24 and November 30 will be effective on January 1, 2010. If no choice is made, the consumer's enrollment will remain unchanged.

BREAKING NEWS!

Effective February 1, 2010, Amerigroup Community Care will no longer provide services to Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) Medicaid consumers in the Southwest Region (Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, Warren). **ABD Medicaid consumers in the Southwest Region will have the option to select Molina Healthcare or Buckeye Community Health Plan.** To smooth the transition, the OEP for those consumers will be extended to the end of December, 2009. Amerigroup members who do not select a plan by that date will be automatically assigned to a plan by the state.

Molina Healthcare of Ohio is now contracted with The Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati. This includes the following six hospitals and specialty care facilities: Drake Center, Inc., Fort Hamilton Hospital, Jewish Hospital, University Hospital, University Point Surgical Hospital and West Chester Medical Center. Molina Healthcare **has also added more than 500 physicians associated with the Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati to its provider network.** These new relationships will offer better access and more choices for Molina's Medicaid members.

Proper Vaccine Storage

Vaccines must be stored properly to keep their potency. The CDC recommends the following:

- Store vaccines according to the manufacturer's recommendations with freezer temperatures maintained at 5°F (-15°C) or colder and refrigerator temperatures maintained at 35°F-46°F (2°C to 8°C).
- Store light sensitive vaccines, such as HPV, MMR, MMRV, rotavirus, varicella, and zoster, at the recommended temperature and in their boxes with lids closed until needed.
- Temperatures should be recorded twice daily.
- Store vaccines in the middle of the freezer or refrigerator. Never store vaccines on door shelves or vegetable bins because temperatures are not stable and may compromise potency.
- Store each vaccine in its own section in the freezer or refrigerator. Sections should be clearly labeled with the vaccine's name to reduce error.
- Rotate vaccine inventory to ensure the vaccine with the earliest expiration date is used first.
- Store VFC vaccines separately.
- Dispose of expired or unused vaccines according to the manufacturer's recommendation or your local health department.

For additional information, please log on to the CDC's web site at www.cdc.gov.

Flu Vaccines

Molina Healthcare encourages members to visit their primary care provider (PCP) for vaccinations. As always, Molina believes that the medical home is the best place for members to get care. However, because of the high demand and shortage of supply, Molina Healthcare made the decision to cover the flu vaccine at in-network pharmacies that offer vaccinations.

Each pharmacy makes a determination about whom they will vaccinate. Most pharmacies will not vaccinate children under 18 years of age, and many will not vaccinate pregnant women.

If your office is referring members to pharmacies because you have depleted your supply of vaccine, please encourage the member to call the pharmacy in advance to confirm their policy and the availability of the vaccine.

***Important Note:** Pharmacists at CVS stores in Ohio do not administer the flu vaccine, and Molina Healthcare is not currently contracted with clinics operating in pharmacies.*

Molina Healthcare thanks our providers for working to distribute the flu vaccine efficiently and effectively, despite the challenges that this flu season has posed.

Please feel free to contact your Provider Services Representative if you have any questions or would like to learn more about Molina Healthcare's efforts regarding seasonal and H1N1 vaccinations.

Keep Up on the Flu News

Please stay abreast of important information on the flu vaccine through the following resources:

Ohio Department of Health - <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/>

Local Departments of Health - <http://odhlogin.sso.odh.ohio.gov/LHDdirectory/NetMgr/ODHList.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (including Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations) - <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

Questions?

If you have any questions, please call the Provider Services Department. A representative will be available to assist you from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. Please call toll free at 1-800-642-4168, or TTY: 1-800-750-0750 (or 711).