

How the health care reform Affects Special Needs Transportation

Presentation Topics

- What the new HCR law does
- What HCR does for the uninsured
- How it will affect NEMT
- The Community-Based Collaborative Care Network Program

Overall, what does HCR do?

- Signed by President Obama on March 23, 2010, and is called the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- Most individuals required to have insurance by 2014
- If you don't have access to affordable employer coverage you can purchase through a health insurance exchange
- Employers will pay a penalty if employees receive tax credits for health insurance through the government exchange

Overall, what does HCR do?

- New regulations on health insurance companies that prevent:
 - Denials for any reason
 - Charging higher premiums based on health status and gender
- In 2014 Medicaid will be expanded to 133% of the fed. poverty level (\$14,404 individual/\$29,327 for a family of four)
 - adds 16 million more to Medicaid - 200,000 in CO

What HCR does for the Uninsured

- The CBO estimates that there will be 32 million less uninsured Americans by 2019
- By 2019:
 - 24 million will receive insurance through the health insurance exchanges
 - 17.1 million more will enroll in Medicaid and CHIP (who will be available for NEMT)
 - According to the White House this will insure an additional 826,000 Coloradans, with an additional 200,000 being added on to Medicaid in Colorado

How HCR Affects NEMT

- Most importantly it doesn't change the "assurance of necessary" transportation requirement. Last year at the CTAA Expo there was some concern that because of the addition of so many into Medicaid that Congress might change NEMT requirements. This did not happen.
- The CTAA has indicated that they would like the new health insurance exchanges to include NEMT like services as well, which would add 345,000 more on to the 200,000 the new Medicaid FPL brings in

New CMS Benchmark Rule

- Last Friday CMS announced its final rule concerning “State Flexibility for Medicaid Benefits Packages”
- Gives states the ***option*** to establish Medicaid services that are "benchmarked" to other forms of insurance, such as the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, state employees' health coverage, etc.
- If the benchmark does not include transportation to medically necessary covered Medicaid services the state must assure that transportation is provided.

New CMS Benchmark Rule

- CMS estimates that 90% of states will have benchmark programs in place in the next two years; *however* because of the additional 17.1 million people joining Medicaid in the next four years it's likely that all states will do this.
- Also, because of the increase in the number of enrollees states will likely move towards managed care to contain costs.
- In an effort to reduce costs, states also might move towards brokerages for NEMT or take advantage of the CMS rule that allows states to have a transportation brokerage and be reimbursed at the medical service rate.

How HCR Affects NEMT

- Who are these 16 million people who be added to Medicaid?
 - Adults without children make up 69% and about a third have a chronic condition and one-in-six is in fair or poor health. This number could be higher because of undiagnosed conditions.
 - About 60% have had no usual source of care, which can make it more difficult for them to access care when needed and may make it less likely they will receive preventative care.
 - It will be important for Medicaid reach out to enable them to access the care they need once they're enrolled

How HCR Affects NEMT

- States that only use taxis and for profit paratransit will probably have to look to public transit because of the increase in enrollees and cost. This might be a big political issue for states that have strong taxi and ambulance lobbies.
- In Colorado, a bill that might solve the NEMT problem in the future, while improving the situation for NEMT riders right now might be considered in the final days of the Legislature.
- SB 1089 would allow the expansion of Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT) providers by exempting Medicaid transportation from some Public Utilities Commission requirements. These requirements currently require these specialized transportation provider to compete with Taxi companies for permits. Under the proposed changes these NEMT providers would receive permits under a different PUC Regulation maintaining the safety requirements but eliminating the need to compete with taxis.

Community-Based Collaborative Care Network Program

- Allows Department of HHS to issue grants to (the above) networks
- What is it: "...consortium of health care providers with a joint governance structure (including providers within a single entity) that provides comprehensive coordinated and integrated health care services for low-income populations." The providers must include hospitals and federally qualified health centers, but can include other entities that provide health care services to low-income populations.

Community-Based Collaborative Care Network Program

- Grants can be used to:
 - Assist low-income individuals access health care services; enroll in coverage; or obtain a primary care provider or a medical home.
 - Provide case management and care management
 - Perform health outreach
 - **Provide transportation**
 - Expand capacity to health care
 - Provide direct patient health services
- Grants will become available in 2011 through 2015

Questions?