

California Advocacy Network for Children with Special Health Care Needs

News, policy updates, resources, events, and advocacy opportunities

Care Coordination

Lessons from Medicare on Coordinating Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs

Is it possible to draw lessons from Medicare to improve care coordination for children with special health care needs – especially those covered by Medicaid? That question is explored by Mathematica researchers in a newly published study funded by the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. The study identifies six design elements from Medicare care coordination programs that are consistently associated with improved outcomes and could be relevant to children with special health care needs in Medicaid. [Read the study](#) in the American Journal of Managed Care and a [related blog post](#).

Using Medicaid Managed Care to Deliver Quality Care to Children with Special Health Care Needs

Medicaid managed care can present a unique opportunity for states to provide effective care coordination for children with special health care needs through an organized, responsive, family-centered system of care. The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), with support from the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, studied how six states designed their managed care systems to serve these children, and examined some of their best practices and strategies. [Read more](#).

Also See: [State Strategies for Medicaid Quality Improvement for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs](#) (PDF)

Children with Medical Complexity

Webinar on the Emergence of Pediatric Complexity



An April 10 webinar examined the increasing interest in how to care for the small but growing percentage of children with medical complexity. Speakers considered whether this new focus will lead to meaningful changes in systems of care and outcomes for children with serious chronic diseases. Access the [recording and slides](#).

California Children's Services

Save the Date: Webinar to Provide Overview on Whole-Child Model, CCS Transition

The Department of Health Care Services has scheduled an informational webinar on the Whole-Child Model, its program to transfer some children from CCS into Medi-Cal managed care. Topics will include an explanation of the Whole-Child Model, descriptions of which CCS beneficiaries are eligible for it, which counties will be participating in the transition, and the services that will be provided for children who are transferred.

Date Friday, May 18

Time 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Pacific Time

Details Webinar information and materials will be available in advance of the meeting on the [CCS Advisory Group website](#). E-mail questions to CCSRedesign@dhcs.ca.gov

Research

CYSHCN National Research Network Established

Accelerating research to help improve health systems for children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) is the goal of a new national Health Systems Research Network for CYSHCN, funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Researchers, families, clinicians, and administrative and policy partners have begun working together to generate and apply knowledge for system improvement, and to train young investigators. The network's coordinating center is based at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, with a secondary data center at Boston

Children's Hospital, and several other research and academic partners around the country. Among the network's first projects is establishing a national research agenda for CYSHCN. [Read more](#).

Quality Standards

Video: How to Use National Standards to Improve Systems of Care for CSHCN

Creating a comprehensive, high-quality system of care for children with special health care needs is an enormous challenge. In 2014, with support from the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs published the [National Consensus Framework for Improving Quality Systems of Care for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs](#), the first national core set of structure and process standards for systems of care. The Standards have been widely embraced, with a 2015-16 survey of Title V programs indicating that 36 state programs have actively used the Standards, which were [updated in 2017](#). See a [two-minute video](#) about using the Standards.

Family Engagement

In Brief

- [Family Engagement: Identifying the Right Parent Partners for Improvement Work](#) – from the National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ)
- Archived Webinar: [Rolling Up Our Sleeves: How to Plan and Implement Quality Improvement Activities Focused on Family Engagement](#) – from the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

California Policy

State Ponders Implementation of Electronic Visit Verification

Electronic visit verification (EVV) is a telephone and computer-based system that electronically verifies that service visits occur. The federal government requires all states to implement EVV for Medicaid-funded personal care services by January 2019 and home health care services by January 2023. California currently is analyzing the impact on personal care services, but has not decided how, or when, EVV will be implemented. Keep up to date with the process, including minutes and materials from recent stakeholder meetings, on the Department of Social Services [website](#).

Special Education

Who Is in Special Education, and Who Has Access to Related Services?

A new study from the Brookings Institution uses results from the 2016 National Survey of Children's Health to compare how student characteristics – such as race/ethnicity, gender, family income, and immigration status – are related to participation in special education and access to speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy services that may be delivered as part of a child's special education plan. [Read more](#) (PDF).

Resources

- [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#) – US Department of Education information and resources
- *Exceptional Parent Magazine* April issue – [Autism](#)
- [Beyond Guardianship: Toward Alternatives That Promote Greater Self-Determination](#) (PDF) – from the National Council on Disability

Webinars

What Is My Culture? What Are My Values? Part 1

Date Wednesday, May 2

Time 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pacific Time
Sponsor Family Voices
Details The third in a five-part series for youth self-advocates, this webinar will explore how personal reflection and self-assessment help increase understanding of personal leadership style. [Register](#).

Events

Health Forum for Children with Special Health Care Needs

Date Monday, May 7
Location San Joaquin County Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center, Stockton, CA
Sponsor San Joaquin County California Community Care Coordination Collaborative
Details Learn about community resources to improve care coordination, new improvements in Non-Emergency Medical Transportation, and advancements in tele-dentistry in San Joaquin County. [See agenda and register](#) (PDF).

Sixth Annual CCS Transition Conference

Date Saturday, May 12
Location Marriott at the Convention Center, Bakersfield, CA
Sponsor California Children's Services
Details Learn about the process of transition from pediatric to adult-centered care. Free for CCS members and their families. CME and CEU nursing credit available. [Read more and register](#).

2018 California School-Based Health Conference

Date May 17 to 18
Location Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento, CA
Sponsor California School-Based Health Alliance
Details Learn, grow, and connect with providers, educators, advocates, and other leaders in the school-based health care movement across the state. The conference will feature workshops for all levels of experience and engagement. Ticket sales end on May 4. [Read more and register](#).

In the News

- [Supreme Court Ruling Alters IEP Landscape](#)
Disability Scoop, 4/19/18
- [Zappos, PBS Launching Apparel for Children with Special Needs](#)
Disability Scoop, 4/12/18
- [Chuck E. Cheese's Now Offers 'Sensory Sensitive Sundays' for Special Needs Children](#)
Huffpost, 4/7/18

We'd like to hear from you

Let us know what's happening with your organization or family. Email newsletter editor Eileen Walsh at Eileen.Walsh@lpfch.org with your news or updates.

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