



Policy Recommendations for the State of California to Improve Children's Health Care

April 2013

1. Evaluate major changes to publicly funded health care programs for children. The evaluation should include a survey of families and providers affected by the changes, assessing the impact on access to care, quality of care and out-of-pocket costs for primary and specialty care and related services.
2. Analyze the cost of sustaining the federally supported increase in Medi-Cal reimbursements that make them equivalent to Medicare rates, and make recommendations on how to support continuation of that rate increase after the federal program concludes at the end of 2014.
3. Require meaningful oversight of Medi-Cal managed care compliance by the External Quality Review Organization to assure that children have equal and timely access to appropriate, high quality health care regardless of the county in which they reside.
4. Establish standards for insurance benefit packages offered in the state to assure that coverage is adequate to meet the needs of children with, or at risk for, chronic physical, mental, dental and developmental problems.
5. Ensure that Medi-Cal managed care plans have adequate and appropriate networks to care for children with special health care needs.
6. Apply existing California Children's Services quality standards and procedures to the care of children with chronic health problems served by Medicaid.