

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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June 1, 1999

MMCD All Plan Letter 99007

TO: Plan Administrators
Medical Directors

SUBJECT: Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Education Work Group and the "Staying Healthy" Assessment Subcommittee

The Medi-Cal Managed Care Division (MMCD) Policy Letter regarding the "Staying Healthy" Assessment Tool was recently sent to your plan for review and comment. The final letter will be released shortly along with the English and Spanish versions of the "Staying Healthy" Assessment tools. The "Staying Healthy" Assessment Tools were designed to assist providers in targeting health education counseling for Medi-Cal Managed Care Members as part of the 120-day initial health assessment.

In January 1999, MMCD convened a Health Education Assessment Tool (HEAT) Implementation Advisory Work Group to advise MMCD on implementation of the "Staying Healthy" Assessment tool and the formulation of the draft policy letter. MMCD would now like to expand the scope of this group to address the broader topic of health education. This group will be renamed the Health Education Work Group and will be chaired by Mary Fermazin, M.D., M.P.A.

The Health Education Work Group will be asked to provide advice and recommendations regarding: a) clarification of health education contract requirements; b) sharing of plans' best practices in the area of health education; c) development of effective strategies for educating members on the use of quality of care information; d) methods of assessing the effectiveness of health education programs including the "Staying Healthy" Assessment.

The membership of the Health Education Work Group will be the same as the HEAT Implementation Work Group. As needed, additional representation will be requested from functional areas from other plans that are responsible for the development, implementation, and evaluation of health education programs. Technical experts in the field of health education and managed care including Helen Schaffler, Ph.D and Sigrid Deeds, Dr.PH, have graciously agreed to participate and provide guidance to the Work Group.

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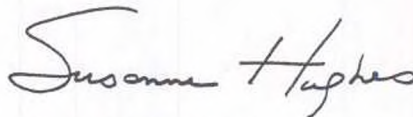
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Several members of the previous HEAT Implementation Work Group have expressed interest in collaborating further in the creation of a resource guide to assist providers in counseling and referring members for issues identified by the "Staying Healthy" Assessment tool. MMCD has been pleased with the collaboration with the plans that led to the development of the "Staying Healthy" Assessment tools and would like to support continued collaboration in the development of support materials to assist in implementation. For this purpose, Dr. Dickey will chair a subcommittee of the Health Education Work Group.

Dr. Dickey was closely involved in the development and testing of the "Staying Healthy" Assessment tools, and has considerable experience in the development of support materials to assist primary care providers in the delivery of preventive care. As has been the practice in recent years, the products of this subcommittee will be reviewed and approved by the Health Education Work Group and distributed to all contracted plans for review and comment prior to general release by MMCD. Use of any these materials by the plans will be voluntary. It is expected that plans will tailor materials to meet the particular needs of their members and providers. The work of this subcommittee will not delay implementation by the plans of the "Staying Healthy" Assessment tool nor implementation of any other contractually required health education programs or services.

MMCD would like to invite all interested chief executive officers, medical directors, and health educators to participate on the "Staying Healthy" subcommittee. Please fax the enclosed response to Dr. Dickey to confirm participation. If you have any questions regarding the Health Education Work Group, you may contact Dr. Fermazin at (916) 653-5297. Questions or comments regarding participation on the "Staying Healthy" Assessment subcommittee may be addressed to Dr. Dickey, at (916) 657-1493.



Susanne M. Hughes
Acting Chief
Medi-Cal Managed Care Division

Enclosure

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cc: Mary Fermazin, M.D., MPA, Chief
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Larry Dickey, M.D., MPH, Chief
Office of Clinical Preventive Medicine
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FAX REPLY

Send to: (916) 657-3089

Attention: Larry L. Dickey, M.D., M.P.H.

From: _____

Health Plan: _____

The following individuals from our health Plan are interested in participating in the subcommittee for support materials for the "Staying Healthy" Assessment.

Name: _____ Tele: _____ Fax: _____

Name: _____ Tele: _____ Fax: _____

Name: _____ Tele: _____ Fax: _____