



The Children's Hospital

The Children's Hospital Supports House Bill 1020: Expedited Re-enrollment in Medicaid and CHP+

Senate HHS – April 22, 2009

- The Children's Hospital Financial Counseling Department:
 - helps parents or families navigate through the complex maze of applying for state or federal assistance
 - employs 7 full-time Financial Counselors to help over 3,300 patients and families annually
 - help explain the Deficit Reduction Act required documents to families
 - is a presumptive eligibility site and can tell a family that they are approved or denied immediately so their child can receive the care they need within the next 45 days
 - provides intervention on behalf of the family to help expedite a critical application where the patient needs life-saving medications, admissions, or on-going therapy.

- Nearly half of The Children's Hospital patient population is eligible for CHP+ or Medicaid

- Online and phone re-enrollment options will make the process easier for our patients and families by:
 - making the system available to families to complete on their time instead of county or hospital business hours
 - lessen the stress or need for transportation to the county or hospital
 - reduce the amount of lost re-determination applications in the mail
 - reduce the number of pending accounts as the county is waiting for additional information.

- Online and phone re-enrollment options will make the process easier for our staff who assist these families by reducing our current appointment times from hours to minutes; and reduce the amount of staff hours it takes to follow up on each application to get final determination status.

- Finally, helping families stay enrolled in public health plans reduces the likelihood of families needing to seek uncompensated care from medical providers. For The Children's Hospital this continues to be important because we experience significant losses due to uncompensated Medicaid care - in 2008 alone, we lost \$62 million on cost of care.

On behalf of The Children's Hospital and the families we serve, we ask for your support of House Bill 1020.

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