



Iowa Medicaid Newsletter

Endeavors Update

A Communications Effort to Strengthen Partnerships *January 2014*

Terry E. Branstad, Governor
Kim Reynolds, Lt. Governor

Iowa Department of Human Services
Charles M. Palmer, Director
Jennifer Vermeer, Medicaid Director

Iowa Medicaid Director's Column

- Special points of interest:**
- Iowa Health and Wellness Plan: Dental Wellness Plan
 - ACA Impact: Medicaid Enrollment Update
 - Governor's SFY15 DHS Budget Recommendations
 - DHS Announces RFP for the Balancing Incentive Program
 - State Innovation Model Grant Update and Next Steps
 - Iowa Awarded Nearly \$11 Million CHIPRA Bonus



Welcome to the first issue of Endeavors Update for 2014. As we kick off a new year, I would like to highlight the implementation of the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. The program began to provide coverage on January 1 of this year. To date, we have enrolled more than 62,000 members, with enrollment growing tremendously every week. Our focus has now shifted to the development of the Dental Wellness Plan (see page 4) and the healthy behaviors program (wellness activities). Keep reading the Endeavors Update for the latest details and progress on the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan.

I am also excited to announce the release of a request for proposal for the Core Standardized Assessment under the Balancing Incentive Program (see page 7). Iowa Medicaid is looking forward to the next steps under this program that strives to rebalance care from institutions to the community.

Throughout 2014, Iowa Medicaid will continue to work on many of the major initiatives launched over the last year. We are working to develop Accountable Care Organizations, expanding Integrated Health Home to more counties and transitioning to the use of ICD-10 by October. You will keep seeing more about the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, and I look forward to another exciting year at Iowa Medicaid.

Inside this issue:

Iowa Health and Wellness Plan: Dental Wellness Plan	3
ACA Impact: Medicaid Enrollment Update	5
Maternal Tobacco Cessation Quality Improvement Project	7
DHS Announces RFP for Balancing Incentive Program	8
Monthly Medicaid Projections	9
Iowa Awarded Nearly \$11 Million CHIPRA Bonus	10

Stay Up-to-Date and Join Our Mailing List

Interested in learning more about the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan and the Health Insurance Marketplace? Sign-up for email notifications from the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise!

The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise created a new distribution list to send timely and relevant information to interested stakeholders specifically about the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan and the Health Insurance Marketplace.

If you would like to receive these email notifications, please send us an email with the subject line "subscribe" along with your name, organization, and contact information to IMECommunications@dhs.state.ia.us.

Iowa Health and Wellness Plan: Update on Implementation

Announcement of Public Comment Period

The Iowa Department of Human Services has announced the public comment period related to the update on the differences between the 1115 Waivers sent to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in August 2013 and what was approved in December 2013. The public comment period closes on March 8, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. Written comments may be addressed to Maggie Reilly, Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, 100 Army Post Road, Des Moines, IA 50315. Comments may also be sent to the attention of: DHS, Iowa Health and Wellness Plan at DHSIMEHealthandWellnesPlan@dhs.state.ia.us.

Access the [full public notice here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan began providing coverage to Iowans age 19-64 with income up to 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level on January 1, 2014. Initial implementation of the program has gone well, with program details being released as available. Below is a review of some of the most frequently asked questions related to the implementation of the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan.

Do Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan members receive one member ID card, or do they also receive a card from Iowa Medicaid?

Members do receive both a Medicaid card and a card from the qualified health plan. The Medicaid card is meant to be used before the member is enrolled with the health plan, or for any services covered by the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan and not by the qualified health plan (such as EPSDT). The health plan enrollment begins the first of the month after enrollment, while Medicaid begins the first of the month of application (ex. applied Jan. 10, Medicaid begins Jan. 1, health plan enrollment is effective Feb. 1).

Members should present the qualified health plan card once it is received. Providers should use the health plan card, for billing purposes if the member has both cards.

Are Iowa Health and Wellness Plan members able to receive retroactive coverage?

Yes. The Iowa Wellness Plan and Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan will adhere to existing Medicaid eligibility guidelines.

- Coverage Effective Date: First day of the month of application
 - Ex. Application received on January 15, coverage would be effective January 1.
- Retroactive Eligibility: Up to three months of retroactive eligibility may be available.
Note: Retroactive eligibility begins January 2014, with the approval of the program. Eligibility cannot be made retroactive prior to January 2014.

For more frequently asked questions related to the implementation of the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, please [refer to this document](#).

Interested in other new Iowa Health and Wellness Plan information? Check out the latest fact sheets posted to the Iowa Medicaid website:

- [Iowa Health and Wellness Plan Waiver Fact Sheet](#)
- [Iowa Health and Wellness Plan Outreach and Education Fact Sheet](#)
- [Dental Wellness Plan Fact Sheet](#)

Iowa Health and Wellness Plan Feature: Dental Wellness Plan

The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, as passed by the Iowa Legislature in May 2013, calls for comprehensive dental benefits, equivalent to the Medicaid benefit. The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) is still in the process of developing the new benefit, called the Dental Wellness Plan. The Dental Wellness Plan will utilize a new, commercial plan framework and offer dental benefits to Iowa Health and Wellness Plan members beginning May 1, 2014.

The Dental Wellness Plan program goals are:

- **Access:** Ensure adequate access to high quality dental services across the state for the new Iowa Health and Wellness Plan adults, addressing current barriers.
- **Manage population health:** Focus on restoring basic functionality for all enrollees and improving the oral health of members over time through education, care coordination and community support.
- **Member incentives:** Ensure there are incentives for members to engage in preventive services, reduce “no-shows” and, enhance compliance with treatment plans by rewarding member involvement to drive better dental outcomes.
- **Provider incentives:** Higher reimbursement rates, a pay-for-performance component and fewer administrative barriers in claims processing and other administrative transactions.
- **Sustainability:** Demonstrate a high quality and sustainable adult dental program that will provide a model that may be considered for the rest of the Medicaid program.

In the meantime, the IME recognizes the need to provide certain urgent and medically necessary services now.

Until the new dental plan is available for coverage, urgent dental services will be payable to any enrolled Medicaid dentist. In all cases, services require a Prior Authorization approved through Medical Prior Authorization. Services rendered should be handled consistent with existing Iowa Medicaid dental policies. Some examples of services not considered urgent are routine services, cleaning and preventive services, routine radiographs, restoration services, and repairs. All patients require an evaluation or assessment prior to the beginning of each service. A prior authorization is not required for the evaluation or assessment, but is required for the allowed follow-up urgent care services .

Service categories covered as urgent/stabilization treatment due to trauma, pain, infection include:

Minor Denture Adjustments	Extractions	Tooth Reimplantation
Splint	Palliative Treatment	Endodontic Treatment
Surgical Incision and Drainage	Anesthesia	Treatment of Bone Fractures
Repair of Traumatic Wounds	Periapical X-rays to Assist with Urgent Diagnosis	Panoramic X-rays to Assist with Urgent Diagnosis
Restorations following endodontic treatment (to close tooth and stabilize until crown)	Urgent/Stabilization Treatment due to Trauma, Pain, Infection	

Members and providers will be notified of the urgent care coverage in the coming weeks. Members will receive a letter in the mail. A provider Informational Letter will also be issued as soon as possible. Look for further updates on the [Iowa Medicaid website](#).

ACA Impact: Medicaid Enrollment Update

In December 2013, the *Endeavors Update* reported on the enrollment progress related to the Health Insurance Marketplace and the launch of the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) has helped more than 126,000 Iowans apply for health care coverage since October 1, 2013.

Current Status

As reported in December, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has delayed sending full file information needed to process applications of those who applied at HealthCare.gov and were preliminarily determined to be Medicaid eligible.

The department is continuing to work with CMS to successfully transfer the necessary information to process applications for Iowans who were told they may be Medicaid eligible. Communication with HealthCare.gov applicants has continued. The state is making a good faith effort to invite Iowans to re-apply to have their applications processed quickly so they may have certainty of coverage. Applicants were notified via email or letter about how to re-apply.

Close to one third of those HealthCare.gov applicants who received the communication have submitted an application directly to DHS since October 1, 2013.

Reminder: Retroactive Coverage May be Available

Medicaid applicants may be eligible for retroactive coverage. The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan also follow existing Medicaid guidelines, meaning coverage begins the first day of the month the application is received. Applications received October 1-December 31, 2013, will be reviewed for January 2014 eligibility.

Applications will be processed based on the date submitted, and will be processed in the order received. DHS cannot guarantee coverage before applications are processed and eligibility is determined. Applicants will receive a letter in the mail from DHS with information about their possible Medicaid eligibility and next steps.

Iowa Health and Wellness Plan Enrollment to Date

Overall, more than 62,000 Iowans are enrolled in the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. Approximately 43,000 IowaCare members were auto-enrolled in the Iowa Wellness Plan, and approximately 8,700 IowaCare members were auto-enrolled in the Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan.

How to Apply

If individuals are still looking to apply for health care coverage through Medicaid, please direct them to any of the following resources below:

Web	Phone	Paper/Fax
Iowa DHS portal at https://dhsservices.iowa.gov/	DHS Contact Center at 1-855-889-7985 7a.m.–6p.m., Monday– Friday.	In person at a local DHS office



“Because of the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, more than 62,000 Iowans have access to comprehensive health care benefits. The bi-partisan compromise is an innovation and accountable approach to coverage, changing the way we deliver health care to Iowans.”
Jennifer Vermeer
Medicaid Director

Pediatric Integrated Health Homes Bring Community Providers Together

“For Polk and Warren counties, the Pediatric Integrated Health Homes (PIHH) have come together to meet weekly and develop consistent messaging and programming for the children, youth and families served through the PIHHs.”
Christina Smith and Brad Whipple
Pediatric Integrated Health Homes

The Integrated Health Home (IHH) providers across the state have been working diligently to partner with behavioral and medical providers in their communities to ensure a true integrated care delivery model. One of the critical components of this community involvement include partnerships among the Integrated Health Homes themselves. For Polk and Warren counties, the Pediatric Integrated Health Homes (PIHH) have come together to meet weekly and develop consistent messaging and programming for the children, youth and families served through the PIHHs. By working collectively, families can have the same expectations within the community and are ensured a “no wrong door” approach to integrated care.

Perspective from the Pediatric Integrated Health Home Provider

“The Pediatric Integrated Health Home model is transformative, for us as providers, but also for children, families and the community. We feel the best way to approach this transformation is together. As we work to weave the Pediatric Integrated Health Home (PIHH) into the fabric of our community, the four providers (Orchard Place, YESS, Lifeworks, and Community Support Advocates) in Polk and Warren counties have committed to working together to provide a community approach to PIHH implementation to best serve children, youth and their families.

We know it can be overwhelming for families and other entities when there are a number of PIHH providers doing things differently, especially during a time of great change. In an effort to design and implement a unified approach for PIHH in the community and to meet the critical needs of youth and families, we have created a Pediatric Integrated Health Program (PIHP) Collaborative in Central Iowa.

This PIHP Collaborative has established a community stakeholders’ meeting, held monthly, to gather input and feedback on implementation. We want to ensure the PIHH is designed to fit the behavioral, social, and physical healthcare needs of all children and youth in Polk and Warren County. As Central Iowa’s PIHH Directors, we have accomplished the following:

- A collective marketing piece to reduce confusion within the community
- A common referral form and process to assure we are able to best match the youth and family to the PIHH that will best meet their needs.
- Collectively present to the community providers to assure clarity of the PIHH and to assure the community we are working together in the best interest of youth and families.
- Working to establish a consistent policy and practice in serving children who are part of the Children’s Mental Health Waiver.

As the PIHP Collaborative moves forward we will continue to focus on shared policy development, clinical approaches, and implementation strategies to best meet the needs of the families, youth, and community as a whole.”

-Christina Smith, Executive Director, Community Support Advocates

-Brad Whipple, MSW, Integrated Care Connections Director, Youth Emergency Services & Shelter

Maternal Tobacco Cessation Quality Improvement Project

There is growing evidence that smoking during pregnancy is associated with a number of poor health outcomes for both the woman and her child. Despite the risks, at least half of women who smoke prior to pregnancy continue to do so while they are pregnant¹. Recognizing the importance of this problem, the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) is planning to conduct a quality improvement project (QIP) for maternal tobacco cessation. The goal of this QIP is to improve maternal tobacco cessation for Iowa Medicaid members to achieve the following results:

- Reduce the percentage of maternal smoking during the third trimester from 22.2 percent to 19 percent.
- Increase the number of provider referrals to Quitline by 50 percent for Medicaid members who are pregnant.
- Increase provider confidence in the use of appropriate smoking cessation techniques for pregnant patients, including discussion of the risks and benefits of medications, when appropriate, by 25 percent by April 2014 and by 50 percent by December 2014.

As part of this QIP, the IME is conducting a survey of medical staff to determine their experience with maternal tobacco cessation techniques. The survey takes less than five minutes to complete. Physicians, certified nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and certified medical assistants who participate in direct care for pregnant patients are invited to participate in the survey. **Please [click here](#) to complete the online survey.**

The intervention associated with the QIP involves a number of educational and outreach components to increase provider awareness about maternal tobacco cessation including:

- The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) “Addressing Tobacco Use in Iowa” is an online tobacco cessation training which offers 1.0 Continuing Medical Education/ Continuing Education Units (CME/CEU) [available at here](#).
- Letter from Dr. Michael McCoy, Iowa Chair of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), which can be viewed at the Iowa [PERINATAL Newsletter](#).
- The Quitline Iowa is a telephone service available to Medicaid members with a provider referral. The Quitline Iowa telephone number is 1-800-QUIT NOW (1-800-784-8669). Provider resources are also [available here](#).

¹Ebrahim, S. H., Floyd, R. L., Merritt, R. K., Decoufle, P., & Holtzman, D. (2000). Trends in pregnancy-related smoking rates in the United States, 1987-1996. *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*, 283(3), 361e366.



“Babies smoke if their moms smoke, so to give them every chance from day one, the best thing we can do is to help moms go tobacco-free. There is misinformation out there, even among doctors, that pregnancy is not a good time for a woman to quit smoking. It’s not true! There may be no better or important time than pregnancy to stop smoking.”
Dr. Jason Kessler
Medical Director
Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

Governor’s SFY15 DHS Budget Recommendations

On January 14, 2014, Governor Branstad released his recommended State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015 budget. The release coincided with the first week of the 2014 legislative session. The governor’s budget for the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) recommends more than \$1.77 billion be appropriated from the General Fund. The recommendations for DHS include an increase of \$106,252,132, when compared to the estimate for SFY14. Some of the increase in necessary funds is due to the decrease in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) match rate (see the [November issue](#) of the *Endeavors Update* for additional details). Governor Branstad’s budget recommendations highlights that Medicaid “is a large and complex funding source of health care services for vulnerable and needy lowans” and notes that “effective management is critical to ensure stability and predictability in a program which impacts the lives of so many lowans.”

Review Governor Branstad’s full SFY15 budget recommendation at:
http://www.dom.state.ia.us/state/budget_recommendations/index.html.

DHS Announces Request for Proposal for Core Standardized Assessments



“Iowa Medicaid is excited about the Balancing Incentive Program, and we look forward to the RFP process for this key aspect of the program”
Pat Johnston
BIP Program Manager

The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) is pleased to announce issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to contract with a vendor for the performance of Core Standardized Assessments for specific Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver populations. These assessments will include the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) and other core standardized assessments yet to be determined. The RFP may be accessed at: http://bidopportunities.iowa.gov/?pgname=viewrfp&rfp_id=9472.

This issuance is consistent with recommendations of the mental health and disability services (MHDS) redesign.

Key requirements for respondents include:

- Conducting SIS assessments for all members with intellectual disabilities.
- Analyzing and selecting appropriately rigorous tools for other HCBS waiver populations including AIDS/HIV, Brain Injury, Elderly, Health and Disability, and Physical Disability.
- Assisting the agency in gathering stakeholder input throughout the process of tool selection for these other populations.
- Conducting core standardized assessments using the selected tools for these other populations.

Proposals must be submitted by March 17, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. CST. It is anticipated that the contract award announcement will be made on April 14, 2014, with work beginning May 1, 2014. The award of this contract is an essential element in the Balancing Incentive Program. The Iowa Department of Human Services looks forward to continuing work on the Balancing Incentive Program. For more information about the Balancing Incentive Program, visit the [dedicated web page](#) and keep reading *Endeavors Update*.

State Innovation Model Grant Update and Next Steps

Iowa Medicaid is continuing to work on the development of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) as a part of the State Innovation Model (SIM) grant.

In December, Iowa Medicaid submitted the State Healthcare Innovation Plan to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This plan outlined Iowa’s proposed approach to ACO implementation, included goals and a timeline. [Review the plan here.](#)

Iowa Medicaid plans to implement ACOs first with the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, specifically for the Iowa Wellness Plan (0-100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level). ACOs will be brought up where possible, and where access standards are met. Any organization wishing to become an ACO will be required to sign the ACO agreement. See the most recent [draft of the agreement here.](#)

Iowa initially received a model design award from CMS, and those funds were used to complete the research and development for the State Healthcare Innovation Plan. The next step for the SIM grant is to apply for a model testing award. This next phase of funding supports the initial launch of ACOs and the supporting structure needed to make the transformation successful.

The guidance and application for the next round of model testing funding has not yet been released by CMS. After the release, Iowa Medicaid will begin the application process. Watch future issues of the *Endeavors Update* for details on the next steps for the SIM grant.

Monthly Medicaid Projections

The Medicaid forecasting group did not meet in December so the Medicaid estimates remained unchanged from the prior month. The midpoint estimates established at the November meeting are provided below. These estimates are inclusive of the additional costs associated with the anticipated Affordable Care Act (ACA) woodwork/welcome mat effect.

Medicaid Forecasting Group Midpoint Estimates		
	SFY14	SFY15
State Revenue	\$1,452,724,622	\$1,426,179,144
State Expenditures	\$1,480,724,622	\$1,574,179,144
Year-End Balance	(\$28,000,000)	(\$148,000,000)

The second half of SFY14 will likely be filled with budgetary excitement as several legislative initiatives and other programmatic changes take effect. The most notable include:

- Iowa Health and Wellness Plan implementation
- Medicaid enrollment changes resulting from the Affordable Care Act provisions
- Provider rate increases
- Many of the rate increases authorized last session will not be paid until the second half of SFY14 due to pending federal approval
- Continued health home expansion
- Expansion of the Integrated Health Home program throughout 2014

The Medicaid budget includes fiscal impact estimates for all of these provisions. As the second half of SFY14 gets underway, we will begin to find out how closely those estimates align with actual experience.

Quarterly Health Home Happenings Newsletter

The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise produces a regular newsletter for Health Home providers in order to share important information with Health Homes. This newsletter includes newly enrolled Health Homes, the Iowa Get Screened Program, approval of the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, and new versions of both the Chronic Care Health Home Program and the Patient-Centered Medical Home to come.

Click [here](#) to read the newsletter:

http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/uploads/HH_Provider%20Newsletter%20-%20FINAL.pdf



*Sean Bagniewski
Provider Services
Account Manager*

Iowa Medicaid Welcomes New Provider Services Account Manager

The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) has welcomed a new Provider Services Account Manager, Sean Bagniewski. Previous Provider Services Account Manager Bob Schlueter is now the Bureau Chief of Adult and Children's Medical Programs for the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise.

Sean previously worked at the Iowa Finance Authority, where he served as a project manager responsible for transitioning the HUD-funded HOME program from the Department of Economic Development to the Iowa Finance Authority. Sean also spent time managing Iowa's Recovery Act energy funding with the Iowa Office of Energy Independence.

At the IME, Sean will lead the Provider Services Unit, which oversees the Provider Services call center, provider enrollment, outreach and education, network management and more. Please welcome Sean to the IME.

Iowa Awarded Nearly \$11 Million CHIPRA Performance Bonus

Iowa has been awarded \$10.6 million in a bonus for enrolling Iowa children in health care coverage in 2013. The award was issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and is designed to give states incentives for enrolling and retaining eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP coverage, as part of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA).

Iowa is receiving a bonus for the fourth year in a row, and is one of 23 other states receiving an award. Over \$307 million in bonus payments were issued nationally for 2013. Iowa was also one of 15 states that produced an enrollment increase of at least 10 percent above the targeted baseline. This allowed Iowa to earn a larger award. Over a four year period, Iowa has now earned close to \$38 million in CHIPRA awards. Learn more about the award [here](#).

Regular Feature: Informational Letters: December 2013

The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise publishes provider bulletins, also known as information letters, to clarify existing policy details or explain new policy. Bulletins are posted on the Iowa Medicaid website. The "Endeavors Update" will highlight informational letters released in the preceding month. Topics of December 2013 informational letters included:

- 1338: Iowa Medicaid Pharmacy Provider Portal
- 1337: Billing a Wellness Exam and a Sick Visit Revised
- 1336: HCBS Intellectual Disability (ID) and Brain Injury (BI) Waiver Supported Community Living (SCL) services approval process
- 1335: Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Payment Program and Meaningful Use Attestation Updates – Patient Volume Methodology
- 1334: Presumptive Eligibility Changes under the Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- 1333: Accepting Application for Certification to Become a Qualified Entity (QE)
- 1332: Accepting new paper version of the CMS-1500 Health Insurance Claim Form
- 1331: Nursing Facility Rates Effective July 1, 2013
- 1330: Referring or Prescribing Providers Must be Enrolled with Medicaid
- 1329: Extension of the Hospital Health Care Access Assessment Program
- 1328: CMS Approval of Low Utilization Payment (LUPA) Methodology

View the complete list of informational letters by year at: <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/Bulletins.html>



**Iowa Department
of Human Services**

*Iowa Medicaid programs
serve Iowa's most
vulnerable population,
including children, the
disabled and the elderly.*

We're on the web!

<http://www.ime.state.ia.us/>

Comments, Questions or Unsubscribe

Please email:

IMENewsletter@dhs.state.ia.us

The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) is an endeavor, started in 2005, to unite State staff with "best of breed" contractors into a performance-based model for administration of the Medicaid program.

The Medicaid program is funded by State and Federal governments with a total budget of approximately \$4 billion. The \$4 billion funds payments for medical claims to over 38,000 health care providers statewide.

Iowa Medicaid is the second largest health care payer in Iowa. The program is expected to serve over 698,000 Iowans, or 23%, of the population in State Fiscal Year 2014.

Iowa Medicaid Upcoming Events:

- February 5: **Drug Utilization Review Commission Meeting**
[Learn more here](#)
- February 12: **February Council on Human Services Meeting**
[Learn more here](#)
- April 17: **Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Meeting**
[Learn more here](#)

This update is provided in the spirit of information and education.

The Department shall not be liable for any damages that may result from errors or omissions in information distributed in this update.