

**FINAL REPORT**

**MEDIPASS IMPLEMENTATION  
OVERSIGHT STUDY COMMITTEE**

**Presented to the Legislative Council  
and the Iowa General Assembly  
January 1992**

**Prepared by the Legislative Service Bureau**



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AUTHORIZATION AND APPOINTMENT

The MediPASS Implementation Oversight Study Committee was established by the Legislative Council for the 1990 Interim and was charged with monitoring the implementation of the MediPASS Program within the Medical Services Division of the Department of Human Services based on the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding dated May 2, 1990, between the Department of Human Services, the Iowa Department of Public Health, the maternal health centers, the Iowa Medical Society, and the Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association. The Committee was directed to monitor implementation of the contracts and the educational components of the program to ensure that the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding are followed by all involved parties. The Legislative Council approved the continuation of the Oversight Study Committee for the 1991 Interim.

The members of the Study Committee were:

Senator Elaine Szymoniak, Co-chairperson  
Representative Dolores Mertz, Co-chairperson  
Senator Berl Priebe  
Senator Sheldon Rittmer  
Representative Dorothy Carpenter  
Representative Joyce Nielsen

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

"MediPASS" is an acronym for Medicaid Patient Access to Service System. As suggested by its name, it is a subprogram of the state-federal Medicaid program. This program is being implemented by the Iowa Department of Human Services under a temporary federal waiver. The federal waiver permits the program to be offered in 11 counties. Due to lack of provider interest in four counties, it has been implemented in the following seven counties: Black Hawk, Jackson, Linn, Muscatine, Polk, Pottawattamie, and Scott. If feasible, the program would have been implemented in the following four counties: Clinton, Dubuque, Wapello, and Woodbury.

The basis of the program is that each participant has a primary care physician who serves as a case manager for the patient's access to most health care services (certain services such as optometric and dentistry can be accessed without the

patient manager's referral). The program only applies to Medicaid recipients living in the seven counties who are eligible under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program and other family and children categories. For these recipients, enrollment in Medicaid under MediPASS or another managed care program is mandatory.

During the process of adopting administrative rules for the program, concern was raised regarding the program's potential adverse impact upon Maternal Health centers (MHCs). The centers are government-funded programs intended to provide health care services to low-income women. The centers' programming places special emphasis on the psychosocial aspects of health care services. Under a special eligibility provision developed for low-income pregnant women, these centers are authorized to determine whether a pregnant woman is presumptively eligible for Medicaid.

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to in the charge was developed at the direction of the General Assembly's Administrative Rules Review Committee. It was intended to ensure that physician case managers authorize services to be provided to pregnant women by MHCs under the MediPASS program. The Memorandum was not agreed to by the MHCs. Part of the agreement called to establishment of a legislative oversight committee to oversee the program's implementation. The Legislative Council established the MediPASS Implementation Oversight Study Committee in 1990 in accordance with the memorandum at the request of the Administrative Rules Review Committee. The Study Committee was reestablished for the 1991 Interim at the request of the original Committee.

#### COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

The Study Committee was authorized one meeting day. The meeting was held on October 3, 1991. During the meeting the Study Committee received testimony from a variety of interested parties. The presentations and discussions are summarized as follows:

Dr. Elizabeth Momany and Ms. Theora Evans Dodd, University of Iowa, School of Social Work and the MediPASS Program evaluator under contract with the Iowa Department of Human Services to provide a federally required evaluation of the MediPASS Program, presented testimony based upon two documents which were provided to the Committee: "MediPASS Program Evaluation Report for MediPASS Implementation Oversight Committee," and "Cost-Effectiveness of MediPASS." Following review of the documents by the Committee, Dr. Momany and Ms. Dodd reported that additional analysis will be available in March 1992 and suggested that the information could be provided to the Committee during the Legislative Session.

Ms. Nan Foster-Reilly, MediPASS Program Manager, Department of Human Services, reviewed with the Committee the federal review of MediPASS, the status of the Department's activity regarding the 1990 Interim Committee's recommendations, and the potential expansion of the MediPASS Program. She noted that the federal review of the program was positive, that the concerns of the 1990 Committee had been addressed, and that the Department is not considering expansion of the program to the remaining four of the originally designated 11 counties before the end of the waiver period in October 1992. She did note, however, that the Department has included expansion of the program to other areas of the state or statewide in its budget package for Fiscal Year 1992-1993.

Mr. David Fries, Iowa Department of Public Health, commented on the effect which the MediPASS Program has had on the maternal health centers in the state. He noted that it may be too early to assess the impact of the program, but did note potential problems which had previously been brought to the attention of the Department. The Study Committee also discussed concerns raised in letters from maternal health centers which were received and distributed to members.

Mr. Ken Mace, Administrative Director, Broadlawns Family Health Center, reported that the main concerns which Broadlawns had with the MediPASS Program have been addressed by the implementation of a waiver developed by the Department of Human Services. He noted that the physicians involved with the program are generally supportive of the concept of MediPASS, but that additional patient and provider education is necessary.

Ms. Becky Roorda and Ms. Cheryl Nuzum, Iowa Medical Society, stated that no complaints had been received from physicians by the Iowa Medical Society regarding the program, but that the program is in its early stages and problems may develop.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The MediPASS Implementation Oversight Study Committee approved the following recommendations:

1. That a request be made to the Legislative Council to authorize the Committee to meet in March 1992, during the Legislative Session, to review the additional evaluation data to be provided by the University of Iowa evaluators. (This request has been approved.)
2. That a request be made to the Legislative Council to authorize the continuation of an oversight committee to evaluate the progress of the MediPASS Program.

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