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From a BROADER PERSPECTIVE

Enrolling in and Understanding the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

Special to QuickNotes by Adele Allison, National Director of Government Affairs, Success EHS (Member, NWRPCA)
Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), providers are eligible to receive up to $63,750 paid over six years in Medicaid EHR incentives. What should you know? What should you ask?

Begin with the basics: This is a Provider program, not a clinic program. Employed/Contracted Providers may assign incentives to an employer or other entity. Each provider must meet the requirements contained herein individually and annually. As a state-run program, the Medicaid EHR Incentive program can have variances by individual state.

Contained in this White Paper

- Available Medicaid EHR Incentives
- Key Program Definitions
- Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Steps
- State Medicaid Points of Variance--Questions You Should Ask
- Reassigning Medicaid Incentives
- Volume Threshold Calculations
- Meaningful Use Stage 1 Objectives, Measures, Exclusions and Thresholds

Read full article

The Pathophysiology of Pain

Special to QuickNotes by Kevin Zacharoff, MD, FACPE, FACIP, FAAP, PainEDU.org

Although still not completely understood today, the science of pain reveals a very complex

Patients Recognize the Power of Data

What if someone very dear to you received a terrible diagnosis, perhaps ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease)? How easy would it be for you to find information to help you and your loved one make good decisions? The family of Stephen Heywood faced those questions in 1998 when Stephen received that very

QuickNotes is sponsored in part by SunRx, providing automated solutions for management of 340B, PAP, GPO and other federally regulated discount drug programs

The Pharmacy
process, and theories are still continuing to evolve. It is important to have basic knowledge of the physiology of pain to treat it effectively.

New receptors, pathways, and hypotheses are being investigated every day. In addition to identifying new pathways, genetic variations have been discovered at the receptor level that can further complicate treatment.

This article is a brief review of the four basic concepts that are important to begin to understand the physiology of pain:

- transduction
- transmission
- modulation
- perception

Read entire article...

Stephen received that very diagnosis. But they didn't feel limited by the data within Stephen's medical record. They wanted to know what others with such a disease had done: What worked for you? What steps ensure the best outcome, and in what order?

Stephen's brother Ben Heywood had experience in medical devices. He also had an engineering degree from MIT, and he was determined to unlock the information his brother needed to successfully fight his disease for as long as possible. He found “the system” hopelessly siloed and difficult to navigate, so he simply reached out to other ALS patients, launching a social networking site for patients to share their experiences. That was 2004.

Today, PatientsLikeMe.com (PLM), Ben's privately funded site, serves 82,000 active users who would say, without a doubt, that the efficient sharing of information is critical to survival and well being. Read more...

The Pharmacy Observer: Solving the Patient Compliance Conundrum

Special to QuickNotes by Patrick Riley, NW Regional Director, SunRx (Member, NWRPCA)

In the US, medication non-compliance results in as many as 125,000 deaths annually. By some estimates, up to 25% of hospital and nursing home admissions could be prevented if patients just took the medications their doctors prescribed.

Non-compliance is the principal cause of complications from diabetes and uncontrolled hypertension-associated heart attacks and stroke. And the list goes on.

The main reason patients give for not taking their medications is that they can't afford them. Once again, community healthcare organizations are finding new ways - and making better use of existing resources - to break down the cost barrier. Read entire article...
FREE CLINICIAN JOB POSTINGS!

Region X Health Centers - NP/PAs and Dentists are searching in your area! NWRPCA offers clinician recruitment services throughout Region X. Visit our web site or contact Trish Bustos, Workforce Development Manager, at 206-783-3004 x 20.

TALK BACK! Let us know how you feel about this issue: Are your recruitment plans being affected by state budget cuts? Send us your answer.

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NO SURVEY FOR YOU!

NWRPCA will not be sending out a member survey in the near future. Don't get us wrong—we would love to! We, along with every PCA in the country, are desperate to know where our members stand in terms of many vital initiatives responding to health care reform legislation. The more we know, the better we can serve you.

But, no survey for you! Why? Because we could not possibly improve on the wonderful efforts of the Geiger Gibson-NACHC Readiness Survey. If you complete this national survey, we will know all we need to know about your status with respect to EHR adoption, meaningful use readiness, and PCMH recognition when NACHC shares its Region X data with us. And then we will be prepared to offer you appropriate education and training that will meet you where you are and help take you where you need to go.

If you have not yet completed the survey, the Geiger Gibson Program has just sent you another link. We urge you to complete the survey today!

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MEET OUR NEW NWRPCA STAFF

Bob Marsalli, Director of Programs

Bob joined us January 1, moving to Seattle from Klamath Falls, OR where he had served as CEO of Klamath Health Partnership, an NWRPCA member. Prior to that, he worked as the HR Coordinator for the same health center. Bob’s background includes work as Area Manager for Klamath/Lake Counties and four years’ service as a City Councilman.
Marguerite ("Maggie") Redd, Member Services Associate

Maggie brought with her five years' customer service experience when she came to us in December. She is a graduate of George Washington University with a bachelors degree in International Affairs. Maggie currently works at Sur La Table in Pike Place Market in addition to NWRPCA. She also volunteers with the International Rescue Committee in Seattle.

Charlesetta ("Charlie") Taylor, Education & Training Assistant

Charlie already had firsthand experience working with CHCs as a front office receptionist and business office billing and claims specialist when she joined NWRPCA in September. A Morgan State University, Baltimore, graduate, Charlie is an American Heart Association volunteer and currently a continuing education student. She served as NWRPCA's interim Executive Assistant before joining the E & T team.

Sydney Martin, Workforce Development Assistant

Sydney Martin has lived in the Seattle area for over eight years and adores the Pacific Northwest. She is a recent University of Washington graduate where she studied Political Science & Philosophy. Sydney is an avid reader who loves the outdoors and is dedicated to the idea of social justice.

Norman Kraft, Finance Manager

Following nine years as CFO at our member organization Cowlitz Family Health Center of Longview, WA, Norm and his wife moved to the Seattle area to be near their grandchildren. Prior to his health center work, Norm spent 15 years in Fiscal Operations for Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission in Portland. In August Norm brought his financial skills and extensive knowledge of the CHC world to NWRPCA.

Sadie Agurkis, Event Planner

Sadie is a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) with ten years of event
planning experience, most recently as an Event Manager with Microsoft. She is a University of Washington grad, a Make-A-Wish volunteer, and a new mom. Sadie joined NWRPCA in May, just weeks before the annual Spring Primary Care Conference, for which she assumed responsibility for logistics.

Region X Highlights

Oregon Governor Focuses on Health Coverage
Governor John Kitzhaber wants to avoid cutting health coverage by re-vamping the system. He has appointed a former GOP Legislative Aide as top Health Policy Advisor. Read more...

Valley View Health Center Board Members Honored
Two Valley View Health Center board members have won the Washington State Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council 2010 Exemplary Advocate Service Award and the Providence Centralia Hospital Medical Staff 2010 Physician Excellence Award of Merit. Read more...

Kodiak Physician Saves Child's Life
It was a routine check-up for her newborn when Rachel Bucciero walked into Kodiak Community Health Center. Her eldest son, year-and-a-half-old Dallas, accompanied Skyler, her newborn, into the exam room because he couldn't go to day care that day. That saved his life. Read more...

A Hard Road Ahead:
Washington lawmakers are looking to pare $5 billion from the budget. Everything from epidemic control to safety-net insurance are on the chopping block— which programs will come out on the other side? Read more...

State must ferret out wasteful health-care spending
Use this time of crisis to make authentic health-care payment reforms at the state level, writes Mark Secord, CEO of Neighborcare Health: "Let's take advantage of this to wage an aggressive attack on wasteful health-care spending." Read more...

Governor Gregoire to reverse six of the most painful budget cuts affecting Medicare
The Governor is working with the Legislature to reverse some of the harshest Medicare cuts, including adult pharmacy benefits and hospice care, and vows to restore more in July. Read more...

Washington State withdraws Medicare Coverage for oral care
As Washington state cuts safety-net programs, non-emergency dental treatment is among the first to go. Read more...

Professional Development Opportunities
DEVELOP YOUR WORKPLACE COMPETENCIES!

20th Annual WESTERN MIGRANT STREAM FORUM
Feb. 16-18, Oakland, CA

Meet our Keynote Speakers

Catherine Tactaquin is Executive Director and co-founder of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. Her commitment to immigrant rights was initially motivated by her own experience as the American-born daughter of an immigrant farmworker from the Philippines. Catherine also helped found Migrant Rights International.
Luis Valdez, born in California to migrant farmworker parents, is regarded as one of the most important and influential American playwrights living today. His internationally renowned El Teatro Campesino was launched in 1965 during his active involvement with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers. His film and TV credits include La Bamba, Cisco Kid, and Corridos: Tales of Passion and Revolution.

Join us in Oakland to explore 6 keys to migrant health:

- The immigration challenge
- Opportunities around the Affordable Care Act
- Farmworker Health Issues: occupational, clinical, chronic
- Models for care delivery
- How to take action: collaboration, empowerment, advocacy
- Resources and practical tools

Forum Details and Registration

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MAINTAIN YOUR MOMENTUM through HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

Annual Spring Primary Care Conference
May 21-24, Seattle
Conference highlights announced!

- New Medical Director Training with NACHC instructors, Drs. Yvonne Fry-Johnson & Christopher Strayhorn, Saturday, May 21
- Health System Transformation with Roger Chaufournier: Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22
- Integrating Services -- vision care, behavioral health, dental, pharmacy, enabling services
- Patient-Centered Medical Home: 11 sessions on various aspects of PCMH
- CHC Board Training with Henry Granger and Kimberly McNally
- Clinician-specific Sessions: precepting; addressing burnout; more TBD
- Fiscal Training: State budget cuts -- their impact and how to respond!
- EHCI update

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Community Health in the Northwest, 2011:
MAINTAIN YOUR MOMENTUM
Refine your strategic vision
Develop creative solutions
Acquire practical tools
Core Competencies for First Time Community Health Supervisors and Managers

March 22- 24, 2011, Seattle. Registration is underway!

Learn today -- Lead tomorrow! Spend three amazing days with the acclaimed instructor, Angela Prater, and reach the level of expertise you need to move from "peer" to "manager," from "follower" to "leader." Formulated specifically for new health center managers and supervisors, this popular course will help you make the transition to management, developing the right communication skills and style so you can quickly build an environment of trust and learn to resolve conflicts.

"Attending the Core Competency course showed me how valuable this could be for our entire organization. I've sent clinic managers to Angela's training, and they have grown tremendously in their confidence and managerial skills. This was one of the best investments in staff development I could have made."
Justin Voorhees, Lead Office Manager, Community Health Care, Tacoma, WA

Questions? Call (206) 783-3004, ext 14, or email sgreen@nwrpca.org if you have questions about registration, application or eligibility for any NWRPCA Learning Connections program.

OPPORTUNITIES FROM OUR LEARNING CONNECTION PARTNERS

Our State PCAs are partnering to offer a series of three webinars:
CEO Top 10 Questions for Billing -- January 26
Front Desk and CHC Revenue Cycle -- February 9
Key Performance Indicators -- February 23

Contact DeborahF@alaskapca.org for details.

What's New in CPT for 2011?

Brown Consulting

Webinar Tuesday, January 25, 2011

This webinar is offered only once at the beginning of each year. It explains the significant changes in CPT for the new year and contains valuable information for coding/billing specialists.
Please contact our partners directly about the opportunities they offer.

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**Member Showcase**

**OCHIN**

**OCHIN: Growing Well -- Mission Intact**

Just a little over a year ago, Abby Sears, CEO of [OCHIN](#), was waiting for word from The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS): Would her 9-year-old Health Center Controlled Network (HCCN) be approved as the HIT Regional Extension Center (REC) for the state of Oregon? OCHIN had a lot of competition, but Sears knew they were a serious contender.

February 2010: Word arrived from HHS. Yes, indeed, OCHIN was the chosen consultant to help approximately 3000 "eligible professionals" (primary care providers, including community and migrant health center providers) select, adopt, launch and learn to meaningfully use federally certified electronic health records (EHR).

And then the waiting began again. OCHIN could not act without final guidance from HHS, which did not come until July 2010. Since then OCHIN has already consulted with approximately 500 eligible providers in Oregon, starting them on the road to "meaningful use" of federally certified EHR platforms. [Read more...](#)

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**Featured Non-clinical Job**

From our [Senior Administrative Jobs Database](#)

**Alaska PCA seeks Patient Centered Health Care Home - Project Specialist**

Will provide professional-level project support and coordination under the direction of the TA Director. The Patient Centered Health Care Home (PCHCH) Initiative is a statewide initiative that assists organizations and sites in developing the PCHCH model of primary care delivery in safety net clinics throughout Alaska, including those in rural and frontier areas. The PS will work with the CEO, PCHCH team, partnering agencies, and APCA members to assist in the development and implementation of a PCHCH pilot and demonstration model that works in Alaska, as well as the framework for payment policy and reimbursement.

See our [Senior Administrative Jobs Database](#) for details and to apply.
**Featured Clinical Job**

NP needed in Alaska's pristine southwest!

If you have two years' experience and want to contribute directly to the health of an indigenous Eskimo population, working on the border of a 20-million acre national wildlife refuge, this could be your dream job. The successful candidate will have experience reading radiographs and dispensing medication. Must be a self-directed individual with strong teaching and mentoring skills. Commitment to serving a diverse patient population is essential; love of fishing, hunting and backcountry recreation is just another good reason to apply.

[Apply online](#) or call our clinician recruiter at 1-877-423-6336 for more information

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**Featured Funder**

HHS Announces Health Center Planning Grant Opportunity

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sobelius has announced up to $10 million in funding for a Health Center Planning Grant (HCPG) opportunity for organizations across the country that would like to become community health centers. The HCPG opportunity is intended to support organizations in the future development of health centers and will support approximately 125 HCPGs in FY 2011. Details [here...](#)

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**About QuickNotes!**

QuickNotes is the newsletter of the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association. Each issue features a variety of information about community health, member news and spotlights, and important funding and workforce listings.

We welcome your comments and feedback as well as your news items. Please [email](mailto:) us your thoughts and your news, resources and opportunities to share.