



HASC BRIEFS

Blue Shield of California ACO Provider Grant Application Deadline Aug. 1

Blue Shield of California, a non-profit commercial health plan, announced on June 7 the return of \$180 million in subscriber premiums, a cap of its net revenue at 2 percent, and \$10 million in grants for providers throughout California. This marks a new approach taken by a health plan to address public criticism of rising premiums and overall health care costs.

The grants are aimed at hospitals and physician groups committed to developing new ways to coordinate care through Accountable Care

Organizations (ACOs). Interested hospitals can find additional information about the Blue Shield ACO grant application program at <https://blueshieldca.com/bsc/aboutbsc/aco.jhtml>. The application form is available at <https://www.blueshieldca.com/provider/announcements/ProviderOpportunity.jhtml>, or contact Blue Shield's Provider Services Liaison Unit at (800) 258-3091.

Grants will be paid in a lump sum or in installments (for example, 50 percent immediately upon award, and 50 percent upon the completion

of an appropriate milestone). Grants may also be made in the form of matching funds (for example, for every dollar the grantee invests in its proposed project(s), Blue Shield of California will match it with a grant of up to three dollars).

Completed grant applications must be received by Blue Shield no later than Aug. 1, 2011. Based on the number of submissions, decisions could be announced by Sept. 30, 2011.

Contact: George Mack
(213) 538-0717, gmack@hasc.org

Inland Empire to Launch Coverage Expansion Program for Low Income Residents

The Insure the Uninsured Project (IUP) held meetings in Riverside and San Bernardino counties recently to share information on the 1115 Waiver and the current plans to expand coverage to uninsured Californians who are at or under federal poverty level (FPL) of 200 percent. Both regions will be impacted.

HASC represents the needs and concerns of Inland Area hospitals at these meetings, and works collaboratively with the counties toward implementing 1115 Waiver and other aspects of the Affordable Care Act.

California's uninsured jumped to 7.1 million in 2009. The Inland Empire is among the areas that report higher than average rates of

residents without coverage. In Riverside, 25 percent of residents are uninsured, and in San Bernardino, the number is nearly 30 percent.

The low income health program (LIHP), part of the 1115 Waiver package that will act as a bridge to health care reform, provides coverage for medically indigent adults. While some details for the program are to be determined, goals include building network capacity while enrolling eligible populations; providing high-quality, coordinated care to bend the cost curve; and ultimately easing the transition to 2014 requirements.

To participate, a resident must be:

- Adult age 19-64
- Currently uninsured

- Not eligible for other public programs
- U.S. citizen or 5-year legal resident
- Resident in the LIHP region

Riverside and San Bernardino Counties are each looking to enroll 20,000 individuals who fall under 133 percent FPL into Medicaid Coverage Expansion programs. The Inland Empire counties have been delayed by the state, which, along with CMS, will be reviewing new contracts for coverage expansion. Enrollment would begin in the fall.

Contact: Christina Bivona-Tellez
(951) 222-2284,
cbivona-tellez@hasc.org

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Visit HASC on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/hospital-association-of-southern-california.

Contact: Denise Barrett, (213) 538-0728, dbarrett@hasc.org

Last Chance to Register for the June 24 Patient & Family Centered Care Conference

The 2011 *Patient and Family Centered Care Conference*, scheduled for Friday, June 24 at Long Beach Memorial Hospital, will provide a unique opportunity for hospital staff and administrators as well as patients and family members to come together in interdisciplinary teams to learn, develop and share skills in Patient & Family Centered Care (PFCC). To register online, please visit www.nhfca.org.

Sponsored by Miller Children's and Long Beach Memorial Hospital, in conjunction with HASC, the National Health Foundation and Patient & Family Centered Care partners, the conference will feature the following four tracks: Achieving Buy In Across the Organization; Integrating Patient & Family Advisors;

Partners in Clinical Care; and Designing and Implementing PFCC Projects. Keynote speakers will include Kristine White, vice president, Innovation & Patient Affairs, Spectrum Health System, *The Urgent Need for Partnership*; and Diana Hendel, Pharm.D, CEO, Long Beach Memorial, Miller Children's Hospital.

The event will provide valuable information for hospitals already engaged in PFCC activities as well as those just starting out with PFCC programs. Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged to attend. All levels of PFCC program development will be presented, from selling the concept of forming Family Advisory Councils to plans for sustainability.

At the conclusion of this confer-

ence, participants should be able to:

- List the fundamentals of Patient & Family Centered Care.
- Evaluate their own institution regarding PFCC practices.
- Identify tools and maps for starting successful Family Advisory Councils.
- Recognize the impact that ethnicity, culture and/or religion play in the treatment of all patients and on building those partnerships.

The cost is \$99 for health care professionals/physicians and \$60 for patients/family members. Last day to register has been extended to June 23, 2011.

Contact: Julia Slinger
(213) 538-0766,
jslinger@hasc.org

Course on Leadership Skills for Nurses Set for Aug. 16

HASC and Flex Ed present *Leadership Skills for the Registered Nurse*, a full-day educational program scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 16 at the California Endowment in Los Angeles.

The course will review key concepts of Emotional Intelligence, as well as how to apply emotionally intelligent traits to key nursing leadership skills. These skills

include effective communication with all members of the health care team, as well as coaching and mentoring skills.

The course will be led by Christine Horton, RN, who has been the chief clinical officer for Flex Ed for the last four years, and has more than 15 years of teaching experience as well as management background as a perinatal director.

Program cost is \$95 for HASC member hospitals. Registration is due by Aug.2; visit <http://www.cvent.com/d/zdq63b/4W> for more information.

A complete program brochure is available at <http://www.hasc.org/download.cfm?ID=31420>.

Contact: Karen Ochoa
(213) 538-0765, kochoa@hasc.org

News from PDS

Welcome to Long Beach Memorial Hospital and St. Francis Medical Center - the newest members of the PDS community of hospitals.

PDS also announces two upcoming webinars titled *Why You Should Regularly Monitor Payer Performance*. These 20-minute interactive webinars will discuss why and how you can use PDS

data to evaluate payer performance.

Register for the June 23, 10 a.m. webinar at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/923361834> and for the June 29, 11 a.m. webinar at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/451373882>.

Contact: Leslie Gold
(213) 283-8003, lgold@hasc.org

Did you know...

The average payment for a Medical managed care pneumonia patient is \$6,498 for an LOS of 3.9 days?* How do your Medical managed care payments compare? Find out with PDS.

Contact: Leslie Gold, (213) 283-8003, lgold@hasc.org

*Based on all closed claims for 2010 discharges in the PDS database as of May 2011.