

## Primary Care Case Management: A Better Option for Connecticut Medicaid

What is Primary Care Case Management (PCCM)?

PCCM is a way of running Medicaid, like Connecticut's HUSKY program, without HMOs. In PCCM, consumers are linked to a primary care provider, such as a clinic or doctor, who is responsible for managing their care. Providers bill the state directly for the health care services they provide and receive an additional modest fee for care management.

Are any other states using PCCM?

Yes, 30 other states use PCCM. More than one in four Medicaid consumers in other states are enrolled in PCCM programs. Other states have enjoyed great success with their PCCM programs.

- ▶ PCCM improves patient outcomes; immunization rates in Virginia are higher for children in PCCM programs than those in HMOs.
- ▶ Given a choice, consumers overwhelmingly choose PCCM plans over HMOs. Consumers in PCCM programs report greater satisfaction with the program than those in HMOs.
- ▶ Providers are more willing to participate in PCCM-based Medicaid programs than in HMOs.
- ▶ PCCM programs save states as much money as full-risk plans. In Iowa PCCM was associated with substantial savings over an 8 year period; this effect became stronger over time.

Everyone wins.

Connecticut's Medicaid program is in trouble

Consumers struggle every day to get care for illness or injury. More than one in three HUSKY children don't get check ups each year; those rates are worse than our surrounding states. Less than half of HUSKY children get any dental care in a year. Only 5.7% of Connecticut physicians participate in Medicaid; far lower rates than our surrounding states. Despite this, last year the HUSKY HMOs were given twice the rate increase that was authorized by the

legislature. Furthermore, the HMOs refuse to be accountable to taxpayers, fighting Freedom of Information requests to explain how they spent \$722,945,942.95 in tax dollars last year.

Connecticut should consider PCCM because

- ▶ Consumers struggling to access care in the program need another option
- ▶ Without HMO hassles, new providers might be willing to participate in Medicaid under PCCM
- ▶ PCCM allows the state direct access to data on what services consumers are getting and how our money is being spent
- ▶ Loss of even one of the current HMOs would leave the state in an emergency without sufficient capacity to cover the 304,075 current consumers
- ▶ A PCCM option strengthens the state's hand in negotiations with the current Medicaid HMOs, saving state dollars and holding them accountable

## Bottom Line:

Connecticut needs another option. Support a Medicaid PCCM pilot program.

Sources: S. Abedin, Primary Care Case Management and Medicaid: 2006 Update, CT Health Policy Project, September 2006, [http://www.cthealthpolicy.org/pccm/pccm\\_medicaid.pdf](http://www.cthealthpolicy.org/pccm/pccm_medicaid.pdf), CT Medicaid Managed Care Council, DSS, CMS, DPH, CT Voices for Children.