

Medical insurance coverage available to everyone through Affordable Care Act

Elina Langnese
Supervisor, W.S.
Managed Care Program

With the new Medicaid Expansion program increasing medical coverage, almost everyone in Warm Springs would most likely be considered eligible for Medicaid.

Managed Care is **requiring** everyone apply for Medicaid at this time.

Managed Care **can** require our patients to apply, as the Medicaid Plans are a free service with no charge to the patient.

The only people not affected by this requirement would be patients with private insurance, other than Shasta, and those patients eligible for Medicare at age 65, and/or patients receiving disability through Social Security.

If you apply and you and/or any family member are denied, **the denial must be brought to Managed Care for processing.**

ternative resource if there is reason to believe that you may be eligible for alternative resources. In many cases the alternate resource is Medicaid, often known as the Oregon Health Plan. Once on Medicaid, you are required to renew your application at intervals determined by Medicaid.

This will be positive because:

•Patients can seek outside health care if you have (open card) coverage through D-Map

•Patients can seek outside healthcare if they have Pacific Source Managed Care Plans, where they would need to see a provider in the Pacific Source Network (a list would be provided to the patient by Pacific Source).

• This will extend Managed Care dollars to more patients over a longer period of time.

If people don't apply,

the downside is:

•If patients are seen in the emergency room and have not signed up for Medicaid, where they would have been eligible, Managed Care can **deny** their visits and the patients would be responsible for all costs related to that visit.

•When referrals from an IHS provider come through Managed Care, we let the vendor know the insurance status of our patients. But patients are still **required** to bring their insurance ID to the vendor for their visit.

• If there is no insurance identified and the patient does not show an insurance card, vendors are beginning to require fees prior to seeing our Warm Springs patients.

• It is best to take a copy of your referral to your appointment and present it to the vendor.

•If you have not followed up to apply for Medicaid, even if your IHS provider referred you out, Managed Care will not cover the cost

for the visit.

Who can help you?

Managed Care, the IHS Business Office, and the Warm Springs Library have "assisters" who will walk you through the Medicaid application and then they will mail it off.

Time frame:

There has been such a large volume of applications going through that it is taking a very long time to obtain a response from Medicaid.

What will happen if you are receiving medical care beginning in January, 2014 prior to knowing your Medicaid status?

We require documentation that you have applied for OHP and your application has been sent in, as the effective date will retro back to January 1, 2014.

You may receive statements from Vendors, as we will hold claims, just bring the statements in for processing and we will notify the vendors of their status.

Health equity meeting Thursday

The Central Oregon Health Equity Task Force will host an information-gathering event this Thursday, Feb. 6, at the Living Hope Church in Madras. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to gain information on potential health care inequities in the region. Health care workers can then focus on correct-

ing any potential inequities.

The Let's Talk Diversity Coalition encourages tribal members to attend, said Emma Smith, Coalition member.

"We would like people to share stories of how medical services could be handled more appropriately for patients, and any problems they may have had at any medical center," Smith said.

Let's Talk Diversity meeting

The Let's Talk Diversity Coalition is represented by 24 local and regional organizations in Jefferson County.

Its focus is on the awareness and understanding of different cultures. By doing so, the Coalition members strive to effectively communicate and interact with all members of our community.

The Coalition works to encourage racial, cultural and ethnic diversity that values family lifestyles. This includes

supporting cultural resources and promoting health and economic equity for everyone.

The Coalition mission is to develop a sustainable process of cultural competency through inclusive engagement by creating accountability for equitable outcomes.

The Let's Talk Diversity Coalition will hold its regular meeting this afternoon, Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Health Department in Madras.

Federal rule: You are required by federal regulations (CFR 42; Ch. 1; Subpt. 36.23,F) to apply for an al-



Honoring Traditions of Health



Questions and concerns?
If you have a question or a concern about the new health insurance law, please contact Managed Care directly and they will discuss everything with you. You can reach Managed Care by calling 541-553-4948, or call the clinic at 541-553-1196.

Culture & Heritage offers youth education programs

Does your child need help with math? Math is made fun and easy at the Education building.

Ittitamasha (counting) is from 4-5 on Monday and Tuesdays, and Thursdays and Fridays. The program is brought to you by the Warm Springs Culture and Heritage Department.

There will be Native American games and projects, and tutoring lead by certified teacher Esther Kalama, assisted by James Sam. Ittitamasha features beading, weaving, artistry, and assistance with school work. For information call 541-553-3290.

Kiksht
There are Kiksht language classes at the Education building Tuesday evenings from 5-6:30, lead by Pam Cardenas, assisted by Valerie Switzler.

Warm Springs Vocational Rehabilitation has orientations every Monday at 3 p.m. at their office in the industrial park. Orientations are also held on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. at the Community Counseling Center.

Cover Oregon is a marketplace for Tribal communities to find health insurance and financial help to pay for it.



Ask for free assistance

541 553 1196

