Hispanic Health Conference

Crystal City, 2019
Promising Trends in Medicaid Dental Programs

- Medicaid Expansion
- Addition of Benefits
- Increased Reimbursement Rates
Medicaid Expansion

• A large and growing amount of evidence proves that Medicaid expansion has produced large gains in health coverage. Moreover, beneficiaries’ physical and financial health have improved. ¹

• CMS projects enrollment growth of 1.3 percent annually from 2017 to 2026. ²

• Evidence suggests that expansion leads to more appropriate use of care by increasing the use of primary services.
Medicaid Expansion

- Idaho, Nebraska, and Utah: Ballot initiative to expand Medicaid passed in November 2018.
- Adults in Wisconsin are eligible for Medicaid up to 100% of poverty level.
- As of July 2018, Illinois and Idaho added adult benefits to their Medicaid programs. ³
- Eight out of ten states with the highest Latino and Hispanic populations have expanded Medicaid coverage.
Addition of Benefits

Medicaid and Medicare spending per enrollee has grown at a slower rate than private insurance. Specifically, Medicaid per-enrollee spending increased by only 1.1%, while cost for private insurance increased by 4.4%.4 This data proves that the government program is appropriately containing costs. The more fiscally sound the Medicaid programs are, the more likely the states will be to add benefits.
Addition of Benefits


In July 2017, Denti-Cal added additional adult dental benefits to include deep cleanings, partial dentures, and posterior root canals.

Twenty-four states, including Indiana and Colorado, are planning to expand Medicaid benefits next year.
Increased Reimbursement Rates

According to the Pew Charitable Trust Report in late January, more than half of the states have built their rainy-day funds back to or above the levels they had been prior to the Great Recession.5

What this means for Medicaid: policymakers are more likely to be open to increasing financial support for Medicaid programs by adding benefits, increasing provider reimbursement rates, or expanding coverage.
Increased Reimbursement Rates

At least one type of provider will see an increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates in 2019.

Fourteen states plan to offer specialists higher reimbursement rates.

Twelve states, including California and Kentucky, plan to increase rates for primary care doctors.

Twenty-one states will offer higher reimbursement rates to outpatient hospitals.
References


Questions?

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Thank you.