



Department of
Job and Family Services

Ted Strickland, Governor
Douglas E. Lumpkin, Director

February 5, 2010

TO: Interested Stakeholders

FROM: Tracy J. Plouck, State Medicaid Director 

SUBJECT: Reinstatement of Medicaid for Public Institution Recipients (RoMPIR) Project

Last year we told you about the initiation of this project to assist individuals served in institutions/facilities operated by the Ohio departments of Youth Services (DYS), Rehabilitation and Corrections (DRC) and Mental Health (ODMH). I am pleased to report that the Reinstatement of Medicaid for Public Institution Recipients (RoMPIR) Project has been completed and is now fully functional.

In August 2008, the RoMPIR project was initiated at the request of Governor Strickland to explore the possibility of suspending rather than terminating Medicaid benefits for those in these institutions or facilities. The goal of this effort is to help people who had Medicaid when they entered an institution to be able to restart their medical coverage immediately upon release. For example, a person who has required care in our state psychiatric hospitals needs to be able to maintain their medications upon discharge, if they are going to successfully continue their recovery. This includes medications or other services that are Medicaid covered.

Through the hard work and collaboration with ODYS, ODMH and ODRC, individuals have Medicaid enrollment reinstated upon release from a public institution. This applies to those who are enrolled on Medicaid at the time they enter the facility. By reinstating their Medicaid coverage, we eliminate the gap in health care coverage and give them the support they need as they reestablish themselves with their families and communities.

The first part of the project was completed in March 2009. This aspect implemented programming in the state's social services eligibility system (CRIS-E). The programming enabled county departments of job and family services (CDJFS) staff to expeditiously issue a temporary (two month) Medicaid card to an individual presenting appropriate documentation to the CDJFS. Rule changes to OAC Rule 5101:1-37-20 enabled this step to occur immediately.

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As of December 2009, the project was completed with the addition of a secure web application. Staff from the three departments' institutions can now electronically notify the local CDJFS when an individual on Medicaid enters a public institution and when they are released.

- The public institution staff enters identifying information into the application. If information matches a current Medicaid eligible, a match ID is logged and an e-mail is sent to the CDJFS to suspend eligibility. The public institution staff is informed if there is a match.
- As part of the individual's discharge planning, upon release the institution's staff enters identifying information. If the release information matches a corresponding record in the log, the system application sends an e-mail to the CDJFS to issue a Medicaid card immediately.
- This new web application is designed to be compliant with HIPAA health privacy requirements and H.B.648.

I am pleased to report that in the roughly eight weeks of implementation, DYS has identified 55% of their total of 168 youth admitted as being Medicaid eligible. As these 93 youths are discharged, this system will enable them to receive Medicaid services quickly. ODMH is also seeing the impact. There have been 48 individuals in recent weeks who have been admitted for state psychiatric hospitalization who qualify for this "suspension" process. ODMH is also planning a research evaluation project for those they serve who benefit from this, to evaluate the impact. Finally, since DRC began implementation, they have identified 576 offenders who were receiving Medicaid when they entered the system. Seven of these individuals have since been released, and have benefited from immediate restoration of their Medicaid eligibility. So, as you can see, a number of people are already benefiting from these changes.

I think it is important to recognize Amy McGee in the Governor's Office for her leadership in making this happen. In addition, our thanks to those throughout the various agencies, as well as our partners with all the CDJFS.

cc: Douglas Lumpkin, ODJFS Director
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