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Ohio Medicaid introduces primary care program to advance child health and wellness

Program creates financial incentives for preventive care, integration between child-serving systems and more

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Medicaid is taking another step toward strengthening health care delivery for Ohio’s youngest Medicaid members. Ohio Medicaid will release the first payment for its new Comprehensive Primary Care (CPC) for Kids program, which has been launched to measurably improve child health and wellness across the state. To participate, pediatric primary care providers must adhere to a set of comprehensive access and care standards, work toward clinical and quality goals designed specifically for children, and serve a minimum of 150 children enrolled in Ohio Medicaid.

CPC for Kids leverages an \$8 million investment to incentivize preventative pediatric care. Three-fourths of the funding – approximately \$6 million – will be distributed in 2020 to assist pediatric practices perform primary-care activities that support infant, toddler, and children’s health and well-being. The remaining dollars will serve as a performance bonus for pediatric practices that make the greatest impact on improving rates of well-child visits, ensuring children receive lead screenings, and providing counseling for nutrition and physical activity to children and adolescents.

“Medicaid’s Comprehensive Primary Care for Kids program promotes the health and wellbeing of children,” said Maureen Corcoran, director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid. “In addition to investing in prevention activities, the performance bonus encourages providers to work in schools, partner with the children’s services system, and collaborate with behavioral health providers. Medicaid’s CPC for Kids program helps focus on children with significant needs, increasing access through working with schools.”

The pediatric CPC model of care promotes preventive services required for the healthy growth and development of infants, toddler, and children. CPC practices must meet a set of standards including 24/7 access to care, a team-based patient care coordination framework, population risk tiering, closing referral loops, and timely, relevant patient-provider communications.

Today, more than 650,000 children, representing nearly half of Ohio’s children with Medicaid benefits, receive health care through a pediatric CPC provider. More information about the CPC for Kids program is [on the Ohio Department of Medicaid website](#).

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