

Basic Health Care Program Changes



What is Basic Health Care (BHC)?

- Basic Health Care is a temporary health coverage program for low-income, uninsured residents of Contra Costa County.

What Changed?

- Adults enrolled on the BHC program must show proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent legal resident status in the U.S.
- Children under the age of 19 are not affected by this change.
- Adults receiving Medi-Cal that covers only emergency care, will no longer be eligible to receive primary and specialty care under BHC

Why were these changes made?



The County's Board of Supervisors took this action due to a budget deficit.

Who is eligible?

- Residents of Contra Costa County who:
 - have proof that they have Legal Residency in the United States (adults only must provide proof of legal residency)
 - have incomes no greater than 300% of the federal income guidelines
 - have assets and real property with values within guidelines of the program
 - are not eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal or Healthy Families
 - are not members of insurance plans such as Health Maintenance Organizations or Preferred Provider plans

Where is Care Available?

- All medical care covered by the BHC program must be received at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center or at one of the County's Health Centers located throughout the county.
- Thanks to a 1.5 million dollar allocation from the B.O.S. Adults who are NOT eligible to BHC due to their immigration status, may obtain a referral to receive primary care at La Clinica de la Raza, Brookside Community Health Clinic or Planned Parenthood by telephoning a Financial Counselor.

What is Restricted MediCal?



- Non U.S. citizens or persons without satisfactory immigration status who are receiving state Medi-Cal have benefits that are restricted to emergency and/or pregnancy care.
- These restricted Medi-Cal benefits do not provide primary care, such as doctor's visits, prescription medications, lab tests and x-rays.
 - These services were provided to patients at the County's health clinics under provisions of the Basic Health Care program (BHC).



What Is Restricted Medical (Cont'd)?

- Pregnant women may continue to receive their pre-natal, labor, delivery and post-natal care with CCHS. Restricted Medical covers pregnancy related health care.

Key Dates

- As of **June 1st, 2009**, adults who are currently enrolled in BHC and do not meet the eligibility requirements will be cycled off.



- For example, persons enrolled in the month of March will be eligible through August 31, 2009.
- The last group of persons affected by the changes in BHC eligibility will cycle off September 30, 2009.

Key Dates (Continued)

- As of **June 1st, 2009** adults with restricted Medi-Cal benefits will no longer have access to specialty visits at Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) facilities if they have been cycled off BHC.
- Restricted Medi-Cal recipients will be referred to one of the community health clinics for primary health care.
- Referrals are done by CCHS Financial Counselors over the telephone.

What about their Medications?



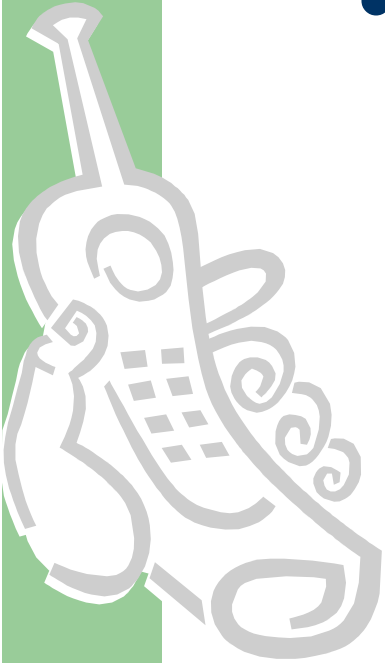
- Beginning June 1st 2009, patients receiving restricted Medi-Cal will be able to receive refills on any prescription medications that they are taking for the next 90 days through a Walgreen's pharmacy.
- Children with restricted Medi-Cal who are under 19 years of age are still eligible for BHC.
- Pregnant women may use their Medi-Cal card to obtain medications related to their pregnancy.

How are people notified about these changes?

- On **May 1st, 2009**, CCHS began notifying persons affected by these changes in writing.
- Persons affected by these changes will be notified 30-days in advance of the changes that impact them.
- Reducing Health Disparities will conduct education sessions to inform CCHS staff and the community about these changes.

What is still available?

- Primary care is available for individuals affected by these changes at one of the Community Health Clinics by referral from a CCHS Financial Counselor.
 - A list of Community Clinics with their locations and the services they provide are in your packet.
 - The Community Clinics will give referred patients information about where they may obtain ancillary care, such as lab, x-ray and prescription drugs.



Services still available at CCHS Health Centers for Persons affected by these changes

- Nothing has changed for accessing the following services. **Permanent Legal resident or U. S. Citizenship is not required for:**
 - Mental Health Services.
 - Health Care for Homeless
 - HIV/AIDS health care provided through the AIDS Program in CCHS Public Health Department
 - Family Planning services through Public Health in the Women's Health, Homeless and STD clinics
 - Tuberculosis Treatment
 - Alcohol and other Drugs Services

Services still available at CCHS Health Centers for Persons affected by these changes (continued)

- Emergency Care available through any emergency department in the state including CCRMC
- Inpatient Care for persons admitted to a hospital
- Persons with private/commercial health insurance coverage that provides reimbursement to CCHS.
- Treatment for breast and Cervical cancer treatment for persons who are eligible for BCCTP (Medi-Cal restricted to treatment of these two types of cancer).

211 Info and Referral

- 211 is the national, toll-free, three-digit phone number to call 24 hours a day for information about local health and human services.

Screening and Application process for Community Clinics

- CCHS Financial Counselors will screen for financial eligibility and issue referral and authorizations to one of the community health clinics
- Community Clinics will provide the services available to all of their patients including information about how to obtain labs, x-rays, and pharmacy services
- Community clinics will provide care on a sliding scale, fee-for-services basis.

What is Public Charge?

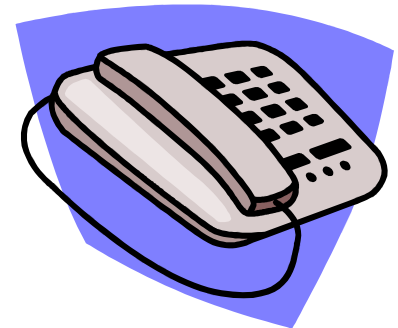
- Public Charge
 - A person who can not prove their legal status in the United States and who has become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence as demonstrated by either the receipt of public cash assistance or institutionalization for long-term care at government expenses.
- Applying for health care benefits has no impact for public charge. It will not affect your ability to become a permanent legal resident later.

Emergency Care and EMTALA

- Emergency care is available to anyone experiencing a medical emergency.
- Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Laws (EMTALA) is a law that provides protections to patients
- Any person seeking care in a hospital emergency room cannot be denied services regardless of their ability to pay.
 - Please see list of all hospitals and their locations in your packets.

Contra Costa Health Plan's Advice Nurse

- Contra Costa Health Plan's Advice Nurse, line is open to everyone, people who call do not need to have proof that they are a Legal Permanent Resident and/or need to be a CCHS patient.
- Phone # is 1-877-661-6230, option 1.



Financial Counselors

- Screen for eligibility to available programs and services.
- Provide application assistance for Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, and other programs
- Provide referral and authorization to Community Clinics
- Determine eligibility to BHC and Health Coverage Initiative.

Telephone number to reach Financial Counselors:

1-800-771-4270

Please Remember...

- “To treat those affected by the change with respect and responsiveness - honoring our commitment to Service Excellence - and sharing accurate and timely information with our communities and our partners.” *William B. Walker, M.D., Director and Health Officer for Contra Costa Health Services.*