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Children with Medical Handicaps

Linking families of children with special health care needs to care providers

2019 NEWSLETTER



Important Reminders

- CMH is a back-up to your child's primary insurance and is always the **payer of last resort**.
- Ohio Healthy Start provides, free or low-cost health insurance for families with children. This program provides increased access to health coverage for children (under the age of 19) in families with income too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to afford private coverage.

For more information and to see if you or your child qualifies, **visit benefits.ohio.gov or call 1-800-324-8680.**

What is CMH?

The Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) program is an Ohio Department of Health (ODH) program that is offered by Franklin County Public Health. CMH links families of children with special health care needs to a public health nurse and a network of quality providers. The program works like a **back-up insurance plan** and helps families obtain payment for the services their child needs.

What is a Public Health Nurse (PHN)?

A PHN is a registered nurse hired to work with children ages 0-21 enrolled in CMH. A PHN is skilled in working with children and their families, and is also an expert on available assistance and resources in your community. Children enrolled in CMH are assigned to a specific PHN. This PHN is available to assist families with understanding the program, filling out forms, and linking families to needed resources. Your PHN is available by phone, email, and/or home visits.

What is a LOA?

- LOA stands for **letter of approval** which is a record of services that CMH has approved for your child.
- Use the LOA like an insurance card when your child goes to doctor, pharmacy, or other approved providers.
- Look at it closely when you receive it, and if you find any mistakes, please let your PHN know immediately (an unreported error may result in services not being paid).
- If you have any questions regarding the services listed on the LOA, **please contact your PHN.**

Things to Remember

- Your child must see their CMH managing physician at least ONCE a year to be eligible for CMH renewal. The managing doctor's name is listed on the LOA. If you do not recognize the doctor's name on the LOA, or have changed doctors, please contact your PHN so your child's file can be updated.
- To be able to use your child's CMH benefits, all services must be provided by CMH providers. Care from non-providers will result in you paying for those services.
- If your child starts to see a new specialist, make sure to contact your PHN to see if additional services can be added to your child's letter of approval.

CMH Renewal

- Consists of a medical and financial portion.
- Renewal is **NOT** automatic.
- You should receive your financial renewal packet in the mail two months before the LOA expires.
- **Call your PHN** if you do not receive the packet and they will assist you the renewal application.

If your child is covered by Medicaid or Medicaid Managed Care, you will NOT receive a renewal packet. Your financial eligibility will automatically renew as long as your child's Medicaid is current and active.



SAFE SLEEP TIPS

Having a new baby is an exciting time! In order to keep your baby safe, they need safe sleeping arrangements.

- Make sure your baby sleeps alone in a crib. Bed sharing increases the risk for accidental injury and suffocation.
- Always place your child on their back to sleep. The risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is higher for infants who sleep on their stomachs.
- Remove anything from your child's crib that could block their breathing including stuffed animals, toys, pets, blankets, pillows, and other loose bedding.
- Always put your baby on their back and in a bare crib for every sleep, including naps.
- Educate others caring for your baby about safe sleep.
- **The best place for your baby is to sleep in a bare crib on a firm, flat mattress.**

Never put your baby to sleep on a couch, adult bed, air mattress, pillow, or other soft surfaces.

If you do not have a safe sleep surface for your baby, contact your PHN

Other Ways to Keep Your Baby Safe

- **Don't overheat the room where your baby sleeps. Use a sleep sack instead of a blanket to keep your baby warm.**
- **Immunize your baby.**
- **Never allow anyone to smoke near your baby or in the car with your baby.**



Visit our website: myfcp.org/cmh

- More CMH program information
- List of assigned PHNs (by zip code)
- Medical Update Form
- Informational Brochures and Handbook
- List of Community Resources

PLEASE complete and send back the Medical Update Form included with this newsletter. This keeps your PHN informed on your child's and family's needs and can help keep you up to date on services and information.

CMH MAIN CONTACT INFORMATION:

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