

TACHC



The Heartbeat of Texas Community Health Centers

Weekly Wrap-up - September
13, 2013

In This Issue

Click on the blue header to go to the pertinent section of this email

- [TACHC 30th Annual Conference](#)....For more on this topic, see the Upcoming Events section
- [TACHC ECP & ECP II Required Care Coordination Phase 2 Training](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #1 in the Governance and Finance section
- [HHSC Moves CHIP Cases Into TIERS](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #2 in the Governance and Finance section
- [PPACA Employer Exchange Notice Deadline – Oct. 1st](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #3 in the Governance and Finance section
- [Direct Relief FREE Medications & Supplies for Your Uninsured Patients](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #1 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [IHI Measuring Readmissions for Improvement](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #2 in the Clinical Affairs section
- [CMS Training Update for Certified Application Counselors](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #1 in the Outreach section
- [TACHC Outreach & Enrollment \(O&E\) Trainings](#)....For more on this topic, see Item #2 in the Outreach section
- [TACHC Staff Ongoing Recruitment Activities for September!](#)....For more on this topic, see the Recruitment & Retention section
- [TACHC Member News](#)....For more on this topic, see the Other News section



Community Healthcare Center

Upcoming Events

[TACHC 30th Annual Conference](#)

October 7-9, 2013, Hilton Austin Hotel

We have a great conference planned for you with relevant topics targeting health center executive leadership, operations, financial, billing, clinical, and administrative staff as well as FQHC board members. We have also built in ample time for professional peer networking

Wichita Falls, TX

opportunities and have a robust Exhibit Hall planned for the conference. Click [HERE](#) to **download an event agenda**. For questions or assistance, please contact [TaSheena Mitchell, TACHC Meeting Coordinator](#).

Information regarding all upcoming events hosted by TACHC can be found [HERE](#).

Governance and Finance

1. TACHC ECP & ECP II Required Care Coordination Phase 2 Training: Care Coordination Phase 2 Training will begin with Annual Conference. Members communications, and that it is **payments this year. Thus, all Coordination Liaison (CCL)**



another all-day face-to-face session just prior to the TACHC of both ACOs have received notice of this training in ACO **a prerequisite to receiving local care coordination ACO member centers should send their lead Care to attend the training on October 6, 2013 @8a-5p at the Austin Hilton.** The training day will begin with review of current workflows expected of CCLs, and CCLs will be taught how to use more of the C3 system, including messaging, assigning of tasks and triggers. CCLs will also receive training on Welcome Home Calls to help actively manage transitions in care. To register and see additional information, go to our events page [HERE](#). Due to the Austin City Limits Music Festival also going on at this time, it is imperative to reserve hotel space ASAP. Please let [Lynn Silver, TACHC Clinical Care Coordinator](#) or [TaSheena Mitchell, TACHC Meeting Coordinator](#) know ASAP if you have any trouble registering or securing hotel space.

2. HHSC Moves CHIP Cases Into TIERS: CHIP cases are now in the TIERS eligibility system. This transition brings important changes for CHIP health care providers. By **October 1, 2013**, CHIP members will have a new CHIP ID number. Providers **must** bill CHIP services under the new CHIP ID number for services provided on or after October 1, 2013. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



3. PPACA Employer Exchange Notice Deadline – Oct. 1st: Oct. 1 marks the deadline for employers to distribute exchange notices to their employees and new hires under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Section 1512 of the Affordable Care Act creates a new Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) section 18B requiring a notice to employees of coverage options available through the Marketplace. This process will inform employees that subsidies may be available to them through the Marketplace. Here are some tips to provide the notices correctly:



- Employers that employ one or more employees and have more than \$500,000 in annual dollar volume of business must send the notice.
- Employers are required to send only the first page of the notice. Pages two and three are optional.
- There are two notices: [one for employers that provide a health plan \(English\)](#) and [one for employers that do not provide a health plan \(English\)](#). Spanish-language model notices are also available, [one for employers that provide a health plan \(Spanish\)](#) and [one for employers that do not provide a health](#)

[plan \(Spanish\)](#).

- Notices may be mailed or sent electronically. The Department of Labor (DOL) also permits them to be distributed in renewal packets, new hire kits, attached to paychecks or personally handed out to every employee (full time or part time, even if they are not participating in the health plan). Employers should document how the notice was provided, including the date it was provided.

More information is available [HERE](#).



1. Direct Relief FREE Medications & Supplies for Your Uninsured Patients: Direct Relief can provide



Direct Relief

your health center with free medications and supplies for your uninsured patients during an emergency and throughout the year. Currently they work with over 1,100 health centers and clinics throughout the country

just like yours! **Here's how it works:** each month they will send out an email, notifying you of free medicines and medical supplies for your uninsured patients. You will need to log on to view the list and place a request. Your order is then sent to your health center -- all shipping is free of charge so you do not incur any costs. **TACHC would like to recruit as many health centers from our state to be new Direct Relief partners from now through October 15, so please sign up today.** To be eligible, your health center or clinic must have federal 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt status, be a qualified facility that provides health care to patients regardless of their ability to pay (i.e. FQHC, FQHC Look-Alike, free clinic, community-based clinic, etc.), comply with all State Board of Pharmacy regulations in storing and dispensing medications, have a Medical Director with valid license, dispense donated products to patients within the United States. Once you're in the Direct Relief network, they can support you during an emergency, only at a much faster pace. Knowing centers beforehand makes their response that much easier. Direct Relief is the only non-profit licensed to distribute medications in all 50 states which put Direct Relief in the unique position to respond to any emergency, anywhere. Through collaboration with TACHC and NACHC, Direct Relief is working to grow their network of health center and clinics partners. For more informational handouts, click [HERE](#) or visit the [Direct Relief website](#).

2. IHI Measuring Readmissions for Improvement: *Kaiser Health News* reporting of the 2,225 US



**INSTITUTE FOR
HEALTHCARE
IMPROVEMENT**

hospitals that will be penalized by CMS for higher-than-expected readmissions rates this October has reignited the conversation about how best to improve care transitions and coordination. The government's Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP) has its critics, but all agree that something needs to be done to counter the financial incentives that have, in many cases, rewarded hospitals for readmitting patients. The question for policymakers and health care improvers is the same: What's the way forward? A new issue brief published

by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and the Commonwealth Fund highlights some possibilities that emerged from a recent discussion among a group of experts in measurement and improvement. Authors Clifford Marks, Saranya Loehrer, and Douglas McCarthy, also published an accompanying [blog post](#) for Health Affairs in which they articulate an important takeaway — the need for a "broader approach to measurement that is relevant to patients, useful for improvement, and fair for accountability." Click [HERE](#) to access the new issue brief and other resources published by IHI.



1. CMS Training Update for Certified Application Counselors (CACs): The CAC training modules are available for review [HERE](#) for the HRSA Outreach and Enrollment (O&E) staff. While this will not allow you to complete the training, the modules (.pdf format) will show you exactly what will be covered. CMS is working on approving and designating health centers as CAC organizations and some of you have begun to hear back this week. The CAC designation by CMS is required in order for your O&E staff to gain access to the required 5-hour training and complete it. **If your center has already received CAC designation**, please let [Sonia Lara, TACHC Director of Outreach & Enrollment](#) know. You may also contact Sonia if you have any CAC-related questions.

2. TACHC Outreach & Enrollment (O&E) Trainings: TACHC is developing a robust O&E supplemental training and tool kit of turnkey messaging, Texas specific outreach materials and community presentations, that can be used by all Texas health center O&E staff. On **September 25-26, 2013**, TACHC will conduct a two day O&E orientation “Certified Application Counselor Supplemental Training” targeting HRSA O&E and any other health center outreach staff. More information can be found [HERE](#). This supplemental training has been scheduled for late September to give you adequate time to hire new O&E staff. This will cover the following topics:



- What the Health Insurance Exchange Marketplace is and how this coverage interacts with Medicaid and CHIP
- How to support your patients in understanding and selecting various Qualified Health Plans and medical options
- Determining premium tax credits, cost sharing, income and family size for Marketplace and Medicaid eligibility
- An overview of the Qualified Health Plans in Texas (these are supposed to be announced in mid-September)
- Which on-line enrollment portal to use depending on insurance coverage type
- Overview of effective messaging, outreach materials and presentations for community outreach
- Data collection and overview of HRSA/CMS reporting requirements
- Professional networking opportunities to learn outreach best practices from their peers

This supplemental O&E training is specifically designed for HRSA O&E and other outreach staff and will be very hands-on and interactive to allow participants to actually practice making enrollment determinations using real-world scenarios common in a health center setting. TACHC has planned another session on the Health Insurance Exchange Marketplace that will be more appropriate for health center CEOs/CFOS/COOs/CMOs at the upcoming TACHC Annual Conference. To register for this regional Medicaid Application Assistance training and TACHC CAC Supplemental Training in September, please visit the [Events Page on the TACHC Website](#). **Although there is no deadline for registration, we ask that you please register by no later than September 20th to provide us an accurate head count for materials and space.** As foundational elements for CAC work, be sure you are engaged with the state Community Partner Program through TACHC. **Apply [HERE](#) to be a CAC organization.** We also recommend a series of online webinars on Marketplace coverage topics conducted by staff at the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) in Washington, DC found [HERE](#). Contact [Sonia Lara, TACHC](#)

[Director of Outreach & Enrollment](#) or [RexAnn Shotwell, TACHC Community Partner Program Project Manager](#) for more information about these events.

Recruitment and Retention



TACHC Staff Ongoing Recruitment Activities for September! With great enthusiasm, TACHC staff continue in our mission to support member organizations in fulfilling their clinical and administrative staff workforce needs. As such, we will be exhibiting at the **A.T. Still University Job Fair Sept 25th**, the **Hispanic Dental Association Annual Conference Sept. 26-28**, and the **Texas Nurse Practitioners Annual Conference Sept. 26-28**. If your center has a new opportunity that you would like us to help you recruit for at one of these events, simply click [HERE](#) and complete the easy online position profile. Have questions or need assistance? Contact [April Sartor, Recruitment Dept. Program Assistant](#) at TACHC.

Other News



TACHC Member News: To learn what your fellow health centers are involved in or read news that may affect your health center, click [HERE](#) for news coverage. We also encourage you to post your news, questions and comments to each other on the TACHC members listserv (members@tachc.org), where only TACHC executives or their designees are recipients.



If you would like to be removed from this mailing, please send a message to ccarson@tachc.org, and we will remove your name from our list as soon as possible.