

connection

important information for fallon community health plan physicians and providers

september 2007

● every day affairs

new director appointed

Mary Ford, former Medicare Products Manager at FCHP, has been appointed Director of Provider Relations.

Mary, who is a registered nurse, joined FCHP in 1997 as an outpatient case manager. She eventually took on the roles of provider services consultant and provider contracts manager prior to working in the Medicare/Medicaid Programs Department. She has a master's degree in public health from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. ●



complying with the federal and state false claims acts

Fallon Community Health Plan is committed to detecting and preventing fraud, waste and abuse in health care programs. FCHP has a Corporate Compliance Program in place to ensure that all employees, contractors and agents comply with the legal requirements that affect our organization.

We've updated our Corporate Compliance Program policies and procedures as mandated by the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. A new policy, called the Federal and State False Claims Acts, summarizes federal and Massachusetts laws aimed at fraud, waste and abuse in health care programs.

The policy is applicable not only to FCHP employees, **but also to all contractors and agents** who provide services for FCHP's Medicaid HMO or Summit ElderCare's PACE program and their beneficiaries.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requires FCHP to disseminate this policy and requires that it be adopted by our contractors or agents. The CMS guidance broadly defines contractor or agent to mean "any contractor, subcontractor, agent or other person which or who, on behalf of the entity, furnishes, or otherwise authorizes the furnishing of Medicaid health care items or services, performs billing or coding functions, or is involved in monitoring of health care provided by the entity."

As such, we are furnishing this policy for your adoption. You'll find the policy in our online *Provider Manual* at www.fchp.org/Extranet/Providers/False_claims_acts.htm. If you have any questions about this new policy, please contact Anne Doyle, FCHP Senior Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer, at 1-508-368-9433. ●

fchp plans for individuals seeking insurance

Fallon Community Health Plan has a high level of involvement in all aspects of health care reform. In addition to participating in the state's Commonwealth Care and Commonwealth Choice programs, we're directly offering a variety of affordable health plan options to meet every need.

We're extensively reaching out to individuals to inform them of our comprehensive plan choices that vary by premium price and the costs members share.

We know buying health insurance is a big decision. We want to make that decision as easy as possible for Massachusetts residents who will be taking advantage of health care reform. Please pass on our phone number and Web site to those you know who are seeking health insurance. Call Fallon Community Health Plan at 1-888-PWR-FCHP (that's 1-888-797-3247) (TDD/TTY: 1-877-608-7677) or visit us online at www.fchp.org. ●

palliative care consultations encouraged

Fallon Community Health Plan has been working on a palliative care initiative to respond to the aging population, low hospice utilization, and limited physician knowledge and comfort in utilizing palliative services. Our initiative has focused on offering education to physicians, health care professionals and hospitals to improve knowledge of palliative care principles.

Based on a need to improve the communication and coordination of care for members requiring palliative or end-of-life service, **FCHP has developed a pilot program designated for the Central Massachusetts area.** FCHP will continue to expand these services and add palliative care physicians as they are identified in the FCHP provider network. The following information provides an overview of palliative care and its goals, and outlines how to initiate a palliative care consult.

what is palliative care?

If your patient is an FCHP member who has been diagnosed with a chronic or life-limiting disease, you may wish to pursue a palliative care consult. Educating your patient about disease progression can assist the individual in prolonging independence, managing pain and symptoms, and facilitating future planning. Palliative care may be integrated with curative treatment to ensure your patient attains the best possible outcome.

goals of a palliative care consult

- Provide education for the patient and family about disease progression, symptom management and treatment options.
- Identify and address the physical, psychological, spiritual and social issues during treatment.
- Assess the patient's pain and symptom-management issues.
- Guide and support the patient and family toward developing realistic goals.
- Encourage patient and family to consider social, financial and legal issues—including advance directives.

how a palliative care consult works

Palliative care consultants are physicians certified by American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, or tenured as a hospice medical director. (The American Board of Medical Specialties will grant board certification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine in 2008.)

- Primary care physicians contact the specialist's office by phone, fax or mail, and provide his or her FCHP vendor number, along with his or her name, the reason for the referral and number of visits.
- The palliative care consultant arranges and completes the palliative care consult with patient and family in an inpatient or outpatient facility, or in a home setting.

- The palliative care consultant submits a claim with the PCP's vendor number and the appropriate CPT-4 consult code and diagnosis V66.7 to indicate a palliative care consult.
- The palliative care consultant reports the results of the consult with recommendations for pain management, symptom control and plan of care back to the referring primary care physician.

for more information

To learn more about FCHP's palliative care pilot program, or for a list of physicians that provide palliative care consultations, please call our Provider Relations Department at 1-866-ASK-FCHP (1-866-275-3247). ●

senior expo coming

Alert your patients! Fallon Senior Plan™ is inviting seniors and caregivers to attend a Senior Spectacular expo on Tuesday, October 23, at the DCU Center in Worcester. There is no cost to attend the event, and it's open to the public. Fallon Senior Plan is a presenting sponsor of the event.

The day includes entertainment, workshops, exhibits, health screenings and seminars. Many exhibitors will be on site to provide information on different products and services. ●


new tool for senior "phit"-ness

Fallon Senior Plan™ members now have online access to SeniorPHIT, which stands for "personal health improvement tracking," for fitness, nutrition and life management. Find out more in *Connection* online. ⓘ

fchp in the community

Fallon Community Health Plan continues to be recognized and active in supporting the needs of our community. Read about some of our recent initiatives in *Connection* online. ⓘ

code changes

In *Connection* online, you'll find an extensive list of codes that *will no longer be separately reimbursed* by FCHP effective **November 1, 2007**. 

In addition, please note the following code changes.

As of November 1, 2007, the following codes *will no longer be reimbursed*.

D0360	Cone beam CT, craniofacial data capture
D0362	Cone beam, two-dimensional image reconstruction using existing data, includes multiple images
D0363	Cone beam, three-dimensional image reconstruction using existing data, includes multiple images
D6092	Recent implant/abutment supported crown
D6093	Recent implant/abutment supported fixed partial denture
D8693	Rebonding or recementing, and/or repair, as required, of fixed retainers

Effective immediately, the following codes *will be covered* for all member types and *will require plan preauthorization*.

L8623	Lithium ion battery for use with cochlear implant device speech processor
L8624	Lithium ion battery for use with cochlear implant device speech processor, ear


Effective immediately the following codes *will no longer require plan preauthorization*.

55875	Transperineal placement of needles or catheters into prostate for interstitial radioelement application, with or without cystoscopy
55876	Placement of interstitial device(s) for radiation therapy guidance (e.g., fiducial markers, dosimeter), prostate (via needle, any approach), single or multiple

As of November 1, 2007, the following codes *will require plan preauthorization*.

69715	Implantation, osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator, with mastoidectomy
69717	Replacement (including removal of existing device), osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator; without mastoidectomy
69718	Replacement (including removal of existing device), osseointegrated implant, temporal bone, with percutaneous attachment to external speech processor/cochlear stimulator; with mastoidectomy ●

formulary updates

Fallon Community Health Plan often makes changes to its formularies, including changing prior authorization requirements and adding new medications. For changes to the commercial plan formulary, please see *Connection* online. 

tracking medication cost increases

Retail prescription prices* have increased an average of 7.5% a year from 1994 to 2006—almost triple the average annual inflation rate of 2.6%. In monetary terms, that means an average prescription price (brand and generic drug prices combined) went from \$28.67 in 1994 to \$68.26 in 2006.

The average brand-name drug price was more than three times the price of its generic equivalent in 2006 (\$111.02 vs. \$32.23).

In an effort to educate our providers regarding drug costs, FCHP will be letting you know which medications have had cost increases and what the average costs per prescription are. We'll be doing this on a quarterly basis.

The chart below illustrates medication price increases for the first and second quarter of 2007.

* Prices reflect manufacturer price changes.

medication	price increase	average cost/claim
Abilify®	6.5%	\$433.98
Actonel®	5.5%	\$83.18
Adderall®	5.0%	\$75.01
Adderall XR®	7.0%	\$121.65
Advair Diskus®	6.0%	\$189.75
Ambien®	9.0%	\$48.61
Ambien CR™	9.0%	\$84.82
Aricept®	7.0%	\$157.52
Avandia®	5.0%	\$157.86
Caduet®	5.0%	\$138.97
Clindagel®	15.0%	\$48.22
Concerta®	8.0%	\$119.45
Copaxone®	10.0%	\$1,722.80
Differin™	10.0%	\$108.94
Diovan®	7.0%	\$74.53
Dovonex®	14.0%	\$191.93
Elidel®	10.0%	\$106.55
Enablex®	10.0%	\$92.63
Evista®	5.5%	\$105.78
Famvir®	10.0%	\$221.00
Flovent®	7.5%	\$125.85
Forteo™	5.0%	\$668.21
Imitrex®	5.5%	\$212.87
Lescol® XL	10.0%	\$104.33
Lipitor®	5.0%	\$115.69
Lunesta™	14.0%	\$109.83
Lyrica®	6.0%	\$149.40
Norvasc®	7.5%	\$66.54
Requip®	5.0%	\$118.84
Seroquel®	6.0%	\$188.80
Sprycel™	8.0%	\$4,091.85
Starlix®	10.0%	\$114.61
Trileptal®	13.0%	\$180.48
Viagra®	5.0%	\$54.26
Zelnorm®	10.0%	\$176.61
Zerit®	6.5%	\$371.91
Zyprexa®	5.0%	\$326.57 ●

have you seen your
connection?

Please pass this along to
the next person on the list.

Date received _____

Please route to:

- Office manager
- Physician
- Billing department
- Receptionist
- Referral site
- Other

get connected

connection online • september 2007

Your online supplement to *Connection* at
www.fchp.org/Extranet/Providers/Connection.htm contains:

- new fchp masshealth benefits in effect
- new tool for senior "phit"-ness
- fchp in the community
- codes update (not separately reimbursed)
- commercial plan formulary update

medical payment policies:

- *Assistant Surgeon Payment Policy*
- *CRNA Payment Policy*
- *Eye Exam and Refraction Payment Policy*
- *Global Surgical Payment Policy*
- *Medical Nutrition Therapy Payment Policy*
- *Medical Supplies and Surgical Dressing Payment Policy*
- *NP/PA Payment Policy*
- *Nurse Midwife Payment Policy*
- *Obstetric Anesthesia Payment Policy*
- *Well Baby/Well Child Care Visits Payment Policy*

Connection is a bimonthly publication for all FCHP ancillary and affiliated providers. The next copy deadline is September 7, 2007.

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questions?
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