

PROVIDER BULLETIN

No. 12-24

Date: May 9, 2012

TO: Nebraska Medicaid Providers

FROM: Vivianne M. Chaumont, Director 
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

BY: Heather Leschinsky, Program Coordinator

RE: Physical Health Managed Care-Assignment of Mid-Level Practitioners

**PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH ADMINISTRATIVE, CLINICAL
AND BILLING STAFF.**

This bulletin is intended to address questions regarding the assignment of Physician Assistants (PAs) and Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) as Primary Care Providers (PCPs) in Physical Health Managed Care.

The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC) made a program change to allow the assignment of enrolled PAs and APRNs as PCPs. The PCP is the practitioner who provides a medical home for the managed care client and is responsible for providing or referring all medically necessary services.

Beginning June, 2012 clients who enroll in a Physical Health Managed Care plan (health plan) will be able to select as their PCP a PA or APRN whose specialty is Family Practice, General Practice, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, and Ob/GYN. PAs must be enrolled as providers in a group practice before they can be selected as the client's PCP. APRNs must be enrolled as providers in either a group or an individual practice before they can be selected as the client's PCP.

Provider Bulletin [10-53](#) informed providers that Physician Assistants could begin enrolling in the Nebraska Medicaid Program December, 2010.

Questions regarding PA and APRN provider enrollment in Nebraska Medicaid should be directed to the Nebraska Medicaid Provider Validation Customer Service Staff at 1-888-572-5707 or DHHS.ProviderValidation@nebraska.gov or Pat Shefferd at Pat.Shefferd@nebraska.gov or (402) 471-9297.

Questions regarding designation as a PCP should be directed to the individual health plans at:

Coventry of Nebraska (Plan Name: CoventryCares)
(800) 865-2673 or

<http://chcmedicaid-nebraska.coventryhealthcare.com/for-providers/index.htm>

AmeriHealth Nebraska, Inc. (Plan Name: Arbor Health)
(888) 738-0004 or

<http://www.arborhealthplan.com/provider/index.aspx>

United Healthcare Community and State (Plan Name: Share Advantage)
(800) 284-0626 or <http://www.americhoice.com>

Managed Care is the way certain clients receive their Medicaid benefits. It is a health care delivery system where Managed Care Organizations (MCO) are contracted to operate a health plan that authorizes, arranges, provides, and pays for the delivery of services in the Basic Benefits package to enrolled clients. The care of clients enrolled in the health plan is managed by the MCO through its network of Primary Care Providers (PCPs), Specialists, Hospitals, and other providers of care who contract directly with the MCO. Managed Care offers an opportunity to assure access to a PCP, coordination of medical care, emphasizes preventive care, and encourages the appropriate utilization of services in the most cost-effective settings.

See provider bulletin [12-15](#) for Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Managed Care. If you have questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Heather Leschinsky at 402-471-9337 or heather.leschinsky@nebraska.gov or John Naujokaitis at 402-471-6353 or john.naujokaitis@nebraska.gov.