

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State Nebraska

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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Employees:

Employees include a part-time physician, the Medical Director for the Medicaid program, who assists with utilization review, quality of care, and policy development and interpretation. The Medical Director works closely with staff in developing and monitoring quality health policy. This physician also confers with program and payment staff on questions involving the establishment of reasonable reimbursement rates and in determining the appropriateness of medical claims payments and compliance with agency regulations. The Medical Director confers with medical professionals to assure appropriate medical input and oversight of programs. The physician is involved with medical reviews for the State Disability Program.

Three pharmacists are responsible for administering the pharmacy program. They set policy, oversee the payment process and payment vendor, and maintain contacts with providers to ensure program quality.

Eleven registered nurses on staff administer sections of the Medicaid program and provide significant medical input into policy and payment decisions. They also consult with the Program Integrity section. A nurse administrator is responsible for the S-CHIP program and oversees operational issues such as estate recovery, HIPP, program integrity, TPL, school based services, contracting process, and the state plan. Nurse program specialists are located throughout the Medicaid program areas and are responsible for the following service areas: physician, hospital, nursing facilities, mental health and substance abuse, home health nursing, vision, anesthesia, chiropractor, podiatry, rural health clinics, FQHC, lab and radiology. Two nurses assigned to Medicaid waivers also consult on issues involving home health care, hospice, and special needs in long term care facilities.

A social worker/licensed mental health practitioner administers the area responsible for mental health and substance abuse, DME, pharmacy, and transportation services.

Under Contract:

One psychologist and one family therapist serve as consultants to the mental health and substance abuse program, assuring quality care for all levels of behavioral health services. There is a pool of psychiatrists under contract who consult with Medicaid on psychiatric issues.

Three dentists, one podiatrist, one optometrist, and one audiologist, consult with their respective service area. One registered nurse consults with the DME and home health programs. All consultants have input into policy making and claims processing determinations as well as quality of care and utilization review.

Numerous registered nurses, many in local health departments, serve under contracts with local health departments to do Medicaid - particularly EPSDT - outreach; they also work with Medicaid clients regarding such things as barriers to keeping appointments, finding and maintaining a medical home, and using health care resources such as the emergency room appropriately.