Current Work and Initiatives

Well Child Visits

Performance Improvement Projects
Health Care Authority and Department of Health convened a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) workgroup with the managed care organizations (MCOs) contracted to provide medical insurance coverage to Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) clients. The goal is to increase rates of well-child visits five percent by July 2019.

The PIP workgroup conducted focus groups and key informant interviews with parents throughout Washington to identify barriers that impede parent/caregiver ability to complete well-child visits. Preliminary data indicate that clinic hours, wait times, and perceived value are barriers. Many parents reported not understanding what providers were doing during the visit, especially if they had not had well-child exams when young. This preliminary information helped inform the Well-Child Visit Recommended Strategies.

Clinic Pilot Project

A clinic pilot project was implemented in each of the five MCOs September 2017 through January 2018. The five participating clinics verified the list of clinic patients, modified procedures to better manage their patient population and promote well-child visits, and engaged in peer learning. Based on the success of this pilot project the expectation is to bring it to more than 30 clinics in 2019. This page will be updated as plans for expansion move forward.

Pediatric Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative
Washington is one of two states that received funding from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to work with providers to increase their ability to provide effective and efficient care for patients through the Pediatric Transforming Clinical Practices Initiative (P-TCPI).

Washington State is committed to increasing the rates of well-child visits, especially for the most vulnerable children. To achieve this, P-TCPI efforts focus on three main areas:

- Patient engagement – includes providing incentives for well-child visits.
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- Provider education – includes tip sheets on Academy of Pediatrics recommendations and parent preferences about appointment reminders.

- Clinic management – includes webinars on correct billing for well-child visits, and valuable new reports available from managed care organizations contracted to provide Apple Health.

Child Profile Health Promotion

The Child Profile Health Promotion System is Washington State's centralized immunization and well-child visit reminder system. The Department of Health uses the system to send health and safety information to all families in the state with children aged birth to six years.

Information is in English and Spanish and timed to correspond with the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommended schedule of well-child visits. Parents receive the information from the department about two weeks before each visit.

The information in the mailings is based on Bright Futures Guidelines and designed to help parents prepare for the well-child visit, including which immunizations may be due.

Parents receive 17 health promotion mailings over six years.

Maternal Child Health

The Maternal Child Health Block Grant supports activities at the state and local levels on maternal and child health. These efforts include Universal Developmental Screening, adverse childhood experiences, and children and youth with special health care needs. You can find out about local activities through your local health jurisdiction.