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December 31, 2012

TO: CHDP Providers
FROM: Joseph Duke, M.D., Director
Child Health and Disability Prevention Program

SUBJECT: **CHDP PROVIDER UPDATE #06-12**

I. Reminder: No-Cost and Low-Cost Health Care Services

In 1989, the Legislature established the California Healthcare for Indigents Program (CHIP) and the Rural Health Services (RHS) Program, which allocated Proposition 99 (Tobacco Tax) funds to participating counties. These funds reimbursed providers for uncompensated health services provided to the medically indigent. In order to receive CHIP or RHS funds, counties agreed to: 1) maintain a financial level of effort; 2) report expenditure and utilization data to the California Department of Public Health; and 3) provide medically necessary follow-up treatment to eligible children. Due to budgetary cutbacks in fiscal year 2009-10, the CHIP/RHS Program was terminated on July 1, 2009.

CHDP Provider Information Notice (PIN) No. 09-03, distributed in March 2009, provided information to CHDP Providers about the termination of the Children's Treatment Program (CTP) effective June 30, 2009. The CTP reimbursed providers enrolled in Medi-Cal and Denti-Cal for services rendered to eligible children for newly diagnosed conditions as a result of a CHDP health assessment. CHDP PIN No. 09-03 can be found on the website at: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp>

As a resource, the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) provides Patient Information for uninsured Los Angeles County residents who require referral for no- or low-cost medical care at County Comprehensive Health Centers (CHC)/Health Centers (HC) and Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Centers (MACC). The information is listed on the DHS website on the Patient Information page at: <http://www.ladhs.org>.

II. Reminder: Provision for On-call Services

CHDP comprehensive care providers are expected to assure the availability of medical services after usual and customary hours (Provider Responsibilities: Health Assessments, p. 2, CHDP Provider Manual). To assure minimal compliance with this expectation, comprehensive care providers must indicate a process in #18 on the CHDP Health Assessment Provider Application (DHCS 4490) for connecting patient calls to on-call or referral providers and a reasonable time-frame for provider response.

For non-emergency conditions, for example, patients may be instructed to leave a message at the office's number, which will be automatically routed to an answering service or on-call clinician; to call an answering service or after-hours number at a different number; or to go to a specific urgent-care or after-hours clinic. A response time-frame under or up to an hour must be indicated.

III. Annual Notice: Provider Changes

Los Angeles County CHDP Providers are required to report any changes in provider information to the local program. Changes must be in writing and submitted within 30 calendar days.

Please share the information in this Provider Update with your staff. Provider Information Notices can be found on the website at: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp>.

If you have any questions about this Provider Update, please contact your Regional Office.