

## METROMONITOR



### METROPLUS HEALTH PLAN, INC. PROVIDER NEWSLETTER

#### A Message from the Medical Director

I am very pleased to present to you a number of enhancements in our Primary Care Provider reimbursement structure. These enhancements are due to the suggestions we have been receiving from many of you. The flat rate structure for primary care capitation should increase the amount you receive for each patient. We are also introducing additional payments for all completed encounters, for appropriate well child visits and for formal health education and counseling. Please respond to the enclosed survey. As always, thanks again for caring for our Members and for being part of our Provider network.

Best Regards,  
Arnold Saperstein, M.D.

We are pleased to announce that MetroPlus Health Plan, Inc. ("MetroPlus") will be implementing a series of changes to reimbursement designed to increase compensation for Participating Primary Care Providers ("PCP") for providing consistent, quality health care to MetroPlus members. This special edition of the MetroMonitor is dedicated to explaining these changes and to announce several other new initiatives, all scheduled to become effective January 1, 2003.

Enclosed with this special edition newsletter you will also find an amendment to your Agreement with MetroPlus which details the rate changes. Lastly, a survey regarding PCP offices' interest and capability to access MetroPlus information via the Internet is enclosed.

If you have any questions or comments about any of this information, please contact your Provider Relations Representative:

- Bronx: (212) 730-3074
- Brooklyn: (212) 730-3070
- Manhattan: (212) 730-3207
- Queens: (212) 730-3201.

#### PROVIDER SURVEY

As part of our continuing efforts to better serve our Participating Providers, MetroPlus Health Plan, Inc. is exploring ways to deliver information to you via the

Internet. As part of this effort, we are asking our Providers to complete the enclosed survey. This survey will help us to assess our Providers' ability to access information and to identify the types of information our Providers would like to access.

In addition, please be advised that MetroPlus has recently completed a five minute video for our Members on how they can get the most out of their enrollment in MetroPlus. This informational video will be produced in both English and Spanish-speaking versions and we will be offering it to our Providers so that it can be shown in their waiting rooms. At the end of the enclosed survey, you will find questions regarding your interest in this video. If you are interested, we will send you a copy of the video once it is available for distribution.

Please complete the attached survey and fax it at (212) 730-3105 or mail it to the following address:

MetroPlus Health Plan, Inc.  
230 West 41<sup>st</sup> Street  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10036  
Attn: Mark Barrett.

**We want to hear from you!** If you have suggestions for the next issue of the MetroMonitor, please call the MetroPlus Provider Relations Department at (212) 730-3040.

## **CHANGE IN CAPITATION RATES**

Beginning January 1, 2003, PCPs will receive a flat rate for capitated services for MetroPlus members enrolled in Medicaid, Family Health Plus ("FHP"), Child Health Plus ("CHP"), or MetroPlus Gold. This new capitation rate, of twenty-three dollars (\$23.00), will no longer be differentiated by age, sex, product, or member eligibility category.

## **WELL CHILD VISIT PAYMENTS**

An additional payment will be made to PCPs who provide and submit encounters for well child care visits to eligible members. The additional payment will be ten dollars (\$10.00).

Please refer to the amendment enclosed for the specific CPT codes that must appear on encounters submitted for well child care visits.

## **PAYMENT FOR ENCOUNTER SUBMISSION**

Two dollars (\$2.00) per encounter will be paid to PCPs for submission of all office encounters. To receive this rate, please use the appropriate code for office visits.

Encounters must be submitted on HCFA1500 or UB-92 forms and must be received within ninety days of the service date.

Starting January, 1 2003, MetroPlus will be accepting electronic HCFA claims through WebMD. MetroPlus' payer ID is "13265". Please call your Provider Relations Representative for further questions.

## **HEALTH EDUCATION AND COUNSELING PAYMENT**

PCPs offering preventive medicine and/or risk factor reduction counseling with the purpose of promoting health and preventing illness and injury will receive a ten dollar (\$10.00) payment for each of the following services:

- Preventive medicine individual counseling;
- Medical nutrition therapy: assessment, re-assessment and intervention (not performed by a physician, a face-to-face encounter with the patient);
- Preventive medicine group counseling;

- Group Counseling for patients with symptoms or an established illness: physician educational services rendered to patients in a group setting such as prenatal, obesity, or diabetic instruction;
- Medical nutrition therapy group (not performed by a physician, with at least two patients);
  - Smoking/ tobacco use;
  - Alcohol and drugs;
  - Exercise;
  - Injury prevention;
  - HIV counseling;
  - Counseling of STDs.
- Other specified counseling such as dental health, diet and eating, weight and nutrition, sexuality, family practice/parenting, or stress management/coping skills.

Additional time (e.g. beyond the usual amount of time given in a primary care encounter) must be dedicated to providing any of the above health education services in order to qualify for the additional payment. The appropriate diagnostic code must also appear on the encounter.

Please note that Providers should document each counseling session in the Member's medical records and include the topic(s) covered, screening or assessment results, risk factors or concerns relative to the individual member, specific advice or instructions given to the member, as well as any follow-up actions recommended or undertaken. For specific details about appropriate coding and claim/encounter submission, please refer to the enclosed amendment.

Please see the enclosed amendment for specific coding instructions for this payment.

## **AUTO-ASSIGNMENT OF MEMBERS TO PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS**

Also, beginning January 1, 2003, MetroPlus is considering auto-assigning members who do not choose a PCP within required timeframes to all Participating PCPs. Exceptions to this process will apply to those PCPs with non-standard age limitations and closed panels.

PCPs who may choose to be excluded from the process of having members auto-assigned to their panels must inform MetroPlus by contacting their Provider Relations Representative.