

# METROMONITOR

## METROPLUS HEALTH PLAN, INC. PROVIDER NEWSLETTER

### A Message from the Medical Director

MetroPlus Recently completed data collection for the 2002 New York State Department of Health Quality Assurance Reporting Requirements (QARR). As indicated in the table enclosed in this newsletter, MetroPlus performed at or above the State average on the majority of indicators. Best performing facilities and networks will be recognized at an award ceremony in September. In this edition of the newsletter you will also find two articles which highlight key opportunities for improvement across provider groups.

Best Regards,  
Arnold Saperstein, M.D.

### MONITORING FOR DIABETIC NEPHROPATHY

Although MetroPlus performed well overall on the Comprehensive Diabetic Care Indicator, it was noted that some Providers are not fully screening for Diabetic Nephropathy. Many Providers are routinely ordering a urinalysis (macroalbuminuria) test. However, according to national guidelines, if the macro results are negative or show trace levels of protein, Providers should be further screening by running tests for microalbuminuria. Acceptable tests for microalbuminuria include: 24-hour urine, timed urine or spot urine for microalbuminuria, or a microalbumin/creatinine ratio.

### SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING ADHERENCE TO CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION GUIDELINES

To improve our childhood immunization rates, Providers are encouraged to seek every opportunity to administer vaccines that adhere to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) recommended immunization schedule.

The following are recommended:

- Children born in countries outside of the United States should receive vaccines according to the recommended USA schedule. Only written documentation is acceptable evidence of prior vaccination. Protection is better established if the vaccines, dates of administration, intervals between doses, and the child's age at the time of immunization are comparable to the current U.S. recommendations. If a question exists regarding whether vaccines administered were immunogenic, please seriously consider repeating the vaccinations. To resolve concerns regarding MMR immunization among international children, revaccinate with one or two doses of MMR, depending on the child's age.

- Vaccines should be administered at most at the minimum intervals and no earlier than the recommended age.

Vaccine doses administered  $\geq 5$  days earlier than the minimum interval or age should not be counted as valid doses and should be repeated at age-appropriate times.

- Please use every opportunity to administer scheduled vaccinations during sick visits. Certain conditions or circumstances should not be considered alone to be contraindications or precautions to vaccination: diarrhea, minor upper-respiratory tract illnesses (including otitis media) with or without fever, mild to moderate local reactions to a previous dose of vaccine, current antimicrobial therapy, and the convalescent phase of an acute illness.

- Vaccinations should, however, be deferred when a precaution is present, during a supply shortage of an antigen, or in the presence of moderate or severe acute illness with or without a fever. In these cases, Members should be vaccinated as soon as they have recovered. In all events, documentation of the reason to defer is required.

- Please make sure that the immunization documentation is complete and not recorded in different sections of the charts or at different facilities. Encourage parents to bring in the child's permanent immunization record at every visit until the child is two years old. Please identify any other provider/facility that administered any immunization. Documentation of the specific antigens and date administered or parental refusal of vaccinations is required.

We strongly encourage you to refer to the ACIP and AAFP guidelines for the following:

- "Recommended and minimum U.S. ages and intervals between vaccine doses"
- "Guidelines for spacing of live and inactivated antigens"
- "Guide to contraindications and precautions to commonly used vaccines".

To find this information, please log on to:  
[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5102a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5102a1.htm).

**MetroPlus Health Plan, Inc.**  
**2002 Quality Assurance Reporting Requirements Results**  
**Fifth Annual Rewards**

Select Indicators	Best Facility Performance		Best Network Performance		2002 MetroPlus Results		Most Recent State Health Plan Average
<b>Childhood Immunizations: Combo II</b>	<b>Medicaid</b> 75% <i>Harlem Hospital and Morrisania D &amp; TC (tie)</i>	<b>CHP</b> 70% <i>Queens Hospital Center</i>	<b>Medicaid</b> 66.3% <i>Generations Plus</i>	<b>CHP</b> 58.8% <i>North Bronx</i>	<b>Medicaid</b> 61.8%	<b>CHP</b> 47.1%	Not Available (Not Published)
<b>Breast Cancer Screening Ages 52-69</b>	100% <i>Morrisania D &amp; TC</i>		89.6% <i>Generations Plus</i>		79.8%		66%
<b>Cervical Cancer Screening Ages 21-64</b>	100% <i>Segundo Ruis Belvis D &amp; TC</i>		83.9% <i>North Brooklyn</i>		74.5%		81%
<b>Chlamydia Screening Ages 16-26</b>	58.9% <i>Bellevue Hospital Center</i>		35.2% <i>South Manhattan</i>		19.2%		37.5%
<b>Timely Prenatal Care</b>	100% <i>Gouverneur D &amp; TC</i>		95.1% <i>South Manhattan</i>		84.2%		78%
<b>Frequency of Ongoing Prenatal Care</b>	81% <i>Gouverneur D &amp; TC</i>		70.7% <i>South Manhattan</i>		54.5%		53%
<b>Check Ups after Delivery</b>	95.2% <i>Gouverneur D &amp; TC</i>		80.5% <i>South Manhattan</i>		66.9%		63%
<b>Controlling High Blood Pressure</b>	75.7% <i>Coney Island Hospital</i>		75% <i>South Brooklyn / Staten Island</i>		56.5%		62%
<b>Comprehensive Diabetes Care HbA1C Testing</b>	100% <i>Renaissance D &amp; TC</i>		92% <i>North Brooklyn</i>		85.6%		80%
<b>HbA1C Control (&lt;= 9.5)</b>	86.4% <i>Queens Hospital Center</i>		79.2% <i>Queens</i>		65%		55%
<b>LDL-C Screening</b>	100% <i>Bellevue Hospital Center and Morrisania D &amp; TC (tie)</i>		97.3% <i>South Manhattan</i>		90.5%		82%
<b>LDL-C Level (&lt;130)</b>	81.3% <i>Gouverneur D &amp; TC</i>		79.5% <i>South Manhattan</i>		66.4%		50%
<b>Eye Exam</b>	81.8% <i>Queens Hospital Center and Morrisania D &amp; TC (tie)</i>		76% <i>North Brooklyn</i>		67.9%		54%
<b>Monitoring for Nephropathy</b>	88.9% <i>Segundo Ruis Belvis D &amp; TC</i>		66.7% <i>Queens</i>		57.2%		50%