



National Covering Kids & Families Network Scoop

July 2, 2010

As a send-off to the nation's birthday, it's probably fitting that the items in today's Scoop focus exclusively on new information that has emerged from the federal government about some of the new rules and resources associated with the Affordable Healthcare Act and some new guidance related to the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization (CHIPRA) of 2009. But first, a quick reminder of our upcoming [NCKF Webinar on Back-to-School](#), scheduled for July 13th from 3-4:30 PM EST. Space is limited, so please [register](#) soon. For those who can't make it on July 13th, the webinar will be recorded and available on the [website](#).

[Patients Bill of Rights](#)

Last week, the Administration released guidance on a number of new rules related to the private health insurance reforms that were part of the Affordable Care Act signed by President Obama earlier this year. This set of new rules, dubbed the "Patients Bill of Rights" includes some significant new protections to the private health insurance the majority of Americans rely on. We know that the majority of your work is focused on assisting families with publicly-financed health care programs, but since the occasional private health insurance question probably comes your way, you may want to know more. Our colleague at Georgetown's Health Policy Institute, Sabrina Corlette, who specializes in private health insurance coverage, blogged about the implications of these new rules and what they mean for families last week, so be sure to [check it out](#) here.

[New Web Portal on Health Care Resources Launched by HHS](#)

Yesterday, the Department of Health and Human Services launched a new web portal- [healthcare.gov](#)- designed to provide families with a central place to go for information on health care coverage in their state. It's likely that there will be a bump in interest in Medicaid and CHIP in your states as a result of this new portal since we know a majority of children who are uninsured are currently eligible for these programs and may be directed to them through the portal.

[New CHIPRA Guidance](#)

Also yesterday, CMS issued long-awaited guidance on two provisions of CHIPRA related to better serving immigrant and non-English speaking populations. The [first guidance letter](#) explains that there is now federal financial support available to states for covering lawfully residing children and pregnant women who've been in the country less than five years. As a result of this provision close to half of states are now offering coverage to these populations. The [second letter](#) clarifies that there are now enhanced federal dollars available to help pay for translation and interpretation services for Medicaid and CHIP, services that many of you are likely familiar with from your work with families. In fact, we were delighted to have Donna Cohen Ross from CMS send the guidance to the [NCKFN listserv](#) yesterday in response to Ann Bacharach's query to the Network about barriers to obtaining interpretation and translation services. So be sure to check your inbox from yesterday in case you missed this lively conversation!

As always, please feel free to contact us—or your Network colleagues using the [listserv](#).

The Center for Children and Families (CCF) is an independent, nonpartisan policy center based at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute whose mission is to expand and improve health coverage for America's children and families. Read more at www.ccfgeorgetown.org and check out our blog at www.theccfblog.org