



# Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

## Hot Topics

Prepared for the Colorado General Assembly

TO VIEW COPIES OF RECENT LEGISLATIVE REPORTS, PLEASE VISIT: [HCPF:LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION](#)

*The mission of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans*

### ***Proposed Provider Payment Delay for FY 2010-11***

Colorado laws charge the Joint Budget Committee with analyzing the management, operations, programs and fiscal needs of the departments of state government. The committee holds hearings and reviews the executive budget requests for each state agency and institution in November and December. Our department's JBC briefing is scheduled for December 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The hearing is scheduled for December 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

We have proposed a provider payment delay to the General Assembly in order to rebalance the FY 2010-11 budget. Based on the September economic forecast, there is an estimated budget shortfall between \$200 and \$400 million depending on the General Fund reserve.

Due to a federal maintenance of effort requirement, we cannot cut populations we cover and to preserve access, we are not proposing any provider rate reductions. A payment delay is our only alternative given the timeframe the Department has for reaching its reduction goal.

The proposed payment delay for fee-for-service providers is three weeks. Instead of paying, as we do now, one week after the submission of clean claims, we will begin paying three weeks after the submission of clean claims.

We understand the impact this may have on our providers, so we are pursuing ways to implement the timing of the payment delays for one week each month over the final three months of the fiscal year – April, May and June.

It is also being proposed that June managed care capitations be paid in July. The delay does not include PACE providers for this fiscal year but will in FY 2011-12. The Accountable Care Collaborative Regional Organizations are also exempt from this delay in FY 2010-11.

There are no proposed delays for CICP clinic or hospital payments, Primary Care Fund payments or other payments.

Future revenue forecasts could change the approval of the proposal by the General Assembly.

We should know by the end of March if the delays are necessary and will keep you up-to-date. Please check the Department [Web site](#) for updates and a calendar illustrating the proposed payment date.

### ***Medicaid Buy-In and Adults without Dependent Children Program Update***

The 2010 Fall Stakeholder Expansion Population conferences have been completed. The conferences were held in five locations around the state: Colorado Springs, Fort Morgan, Lafayette, Montrose and Steamboat Springs. Department staff received great feedback and is very appreciative of the support and input from the several hundred attendees. This support and input is essential as the Department moves forward with designing the Buy-In for Individuals with Disabilities and the Adults without Dependent Children programs and implements these Medicaid expansion programs.

Department staff is in the process of compiling the information received and it will be distributed to attendees and posted on the Department Web site as soon as it is available.

Department of  
Health Care  
Policy and  
Financing  
1570 Grant St.  
Denver, CO  
80203  
Phone 303-866-2993  
Fax 303-866-  
3883

[Colorado.gov/hcpf](http://Colorado.gov/hcpf)

### **CO-CHAMP Update**

November's [update](#) on the CO-CHAMP initiative is now available on the Department Web site. The page includes program updates, project descriptions and fact sheets, announcements and more.

### **Accountable Care Collaborative Update**

The [Accountable Care Collaborative](#) (ACC) continues its development with a planned launch in April 2011. The ACC will initially serve 60,000 clients statewide – adults and children – on Medicaid. Once it is demonstrated that it has reached the initial cost goals, the program will be expanded in subsequent years and become the primary way care is delivered to our clients on Medicaid.

The Department published a Request for Proposals in August 2010 for experienced and innovative organizations with a strong community presence to be Regional Care Collaborative Organizations (RCCOs). There will be seven regions statewide. Selected organizations will be announced in December 2010.

The Statewide Data and Analytics Contractor (SDAC) is responsible for using data and analytics to provide insight the performance of the ACC Program on both cost and client health outcomes. The Request for Proposals for the SDAC contractor was published in September 2010, and we expect to announce the award in January 2011.

### **Colorado Access to Community-based Transitions and Services**

Colorado has an incredible opportunity to make significant improvements to its community-based long- term care services and supports through the "Money Follows the Person" Demonstration Grant Program. This grant is made possible through the Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act.

The Colorado Access to Community-Based Transitions & Services ([CO-ACTS](#)) Initiative is Colorado's Money Follows the Person demonstration grant proposal to the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. CO-ACTS will support the state's effort to reform the long term care system for people of all ages with long-term care needs and rebalance funding and policy towards home and community-based services.

Strategic planning meetings with key leaders from the Colorado Department of Human Services and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing began in April, 2010. Both departments have agreed to streamline administration, consolidate waivers and work on a plan to address conflict of interest issues within the Community Centered Board system.

In September, the Department received a \$200,000 Planning Grant from CMS to hire a consultant for assistance with drafting an Operational Protocol required in the main grant application and a facilitator to lead public forums. The first public forum takes place at the Hampden Inn, on December 16<sup>th</sup>, from 4-6PM, 4150 E. Kentucky Avenue, Denver, CO 80246.

*For more information on any of these topics, please contact Nicole Storm at 303-866-3180 or [Nicole.Storm@state.co.us](mailto:Nicole.Storm@state.co.us)*