

Medicaid Electronic Health Records

FACTSHEET

Status:

- Currently, when a Medicaid-eligible child visits a physician, the only medical history available is the data contained in that practice's chart.
- The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires states to provide Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services to Medicaid-eligible children. It is important for the children's health and for accurate federal reimbursement that receipt of these services be tracked.
- CMS makes available to state Medicaid programs enhanced federal funding for technology projects using standards for Medicaid Information Technology Architecture (MITA). Arkansas Medicaid prepared a proposal to CMS for a MITA project to create an Electronic Health Record (EHR) for children receiving Medicaid EPSDT services, including foster children.

Program:

The Arkansas Department of Human Services (ADHS) Division of Medical Services (DMS) will develop a web-based EHR for all children eligible for Medicaid. The EHR will contain health records from Medicaid claims, the State's immunization registry, and three leading lab providers, with plans to incorporate other medical sources in the future. The child's family will also be able to electronically access the information, as will ADHS Division of Children and Family Services workers for foster children.

Impact:

- Physicians will be able to see a child's health record via the web with password protection. Doctors will make more informed decisions, prevent duplicate immunizations and tests, provide information about allergies and drug interactions, and generally improve health care for children.
- Physicians who treat the approximately 3,700 foster children will have immediate access to current medical information.
- Medicaid may realize some cost savings due to better coordinated and less duplicative health care for children. However, cost savings are secondary to providing better care for children.

How it Works:

- The EHR will be backed by technology that acquires medical data from various sources and aggregates it into a coherent record for each child, with the record continually updated.
- Each child's EHR will include the clinical information available for at least the past two years.
- Authorized caregivers will have appropriate secure access to the HER, allowing them to receive alerts when health events are due, such as immunizations or required EPSDT screens and treatments.
- The EPSDT module will track the child from screening to diagnosis to initiation of treatment.

Administration/Oversight: DMS will submit an Advance Planning Document (APD) to CMS for approval to develop and implement the EHR. With CMS approval, DMS will administer the project through its Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) fiscal agent, using State General Revenue to acquire matching federal contribution. The contracted fiscal agent will develop and implement the EHR under DMS' oversight.

