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UnitedHealth Group's Connected Care - taking health care on the road



Technology has advanced our ability to connect with



Health Reform Includes Preventive Services

There are many changes that will occur as a result of the new health care reform law that begin to take effect this year.

An important segment of health care reform is the addition of recommended preventive services with no co-pays.

Many health plans already include coverage of preventative services with no co-pays in their benefit packages, but the new law will expand coverage of preventive services.

It is estimated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control that 39 percent of Ohio residents have not had a colorectal cancer screening, and 21 percent of women over 50 have not had a mammogram in the past two years. Research shows that screening for colorectal cancers as recommended helps prevent the disease by finding precancerous lesions so they can be treated before they become cancerous, and screening for breast cancer also helps find the disease at an early, often highly treatable stage.

Medicare will also fully cover preventive services. Currently, seniors in Medicare must pay part of the cost of many preventive services on their own. For example, for a colonoscopy that costs \$719, a senior must pay \$167 – a price that can be prohibitive for someone on a fixed income. As a result of the changes included in health care reform, a senior will not pay anything for a colonoscopy, or for any other recommended preventive service. Seniors will also get free annual wellness visits to their health care provider, with a personalized prevention plan to remain in good health.

With the inclusion of preventive care as part of health reform, there is no longer a need for the many health insurance coverage mandate bills introduced in the Ohio legislature. As a matter of fact, any state mandates that go further than what has been included in health care reform will need to be paid for by the state of Ohio for consumers who purchase coverage in the exchange. While many of these bills were well intentioned by their legislative sponsors, clearly there is no need for them

each others in almost every aspect of our lives. Now technology is being used to expand access to clinical care.

UnitedHealth Group is launching "Connected Care" a national telehealth network that will connect patients to leading primary care physicians, specialists and hospitals, regardless of location. Connected Care will make telehealth clinics available in the workplace, as well as in rural, urban and even retail locations. In-home telehealth visits using similar technology will also be introduced to truly bring care to the patient.

Recently, the UnitedHealth Group Connected Care mobile clinic's 18-wheeler made a stop in downtown Columbus at COSI so that local providers and others could see Connected Care's capabilities first hand.

About the Connected Care Mobile Clinic:

The UnitedHealth Group Connected Care mobile clinic is an 18-wheel demonstration clinic showcasing the technology and connectivity available through the Connected Care telehealth network. It includes Cisco's HealthPresence videoconferencing along with other collaborative technologies that use video, audio and medical information to create an experience remarkably similar to an in-person visit

to go forward.

As there are many changes on the horizon, please know that if I can answer any questions about health reform or the health insurance industry, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kelly McGivern
President and CEO
Ohio Association of Health Plans

OAHP Annual Convention is almost here

The 2010 OAHP Annual Convention and Trade Show is May 25-26, 2010 at the Columbus, a Renaissance Hotel

Health plan executives from across the state are attending and there is a top-notch agenda for the two days

There are many outstanding speakers scheduled, including:

- **President E. Gordon Gee of the Ohio State University**
- **Ohio Department of Insurance Director Mary Jo Hudson**
 - **Ohio Republican Party Chairman Kevin DeWine**
 - **Ohio Democratic Party Chairman Chris Redfern**

These speakers will outline ways of "Navigating a New Landscape" in health care. You can register by clicking [here](#).

In addition, the OAHP will be holding its annual Legislative Reception at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

with a doctor.

A patient, located in an area where there is little medical care available, climbs aboard a mobile clinic.

- The first thing the patient sees is the receptionist, who may either be onboard or connected on a screen.
- After checking in, the patient proceeds to the activation area where some preliminary vital sign tests are taken at biometric stations.
- Next, the patient sees the doctor in a soundproof office using high-definition video conferencing. The doctor will see and hear the patient live from his/her location; the patient will see and hear the doctor live on a high-definition screen at his/her telehealth clinic location.
- Furthermore, the doctor can conduct various tests with medical devices onboard the truck, including digital scopes, cameras, blood pressure monitors and other equipment. The doctor can also call up a patient's electronic health records.



The OAH Health Fair is May 25

In conjunction with the first day of the OAH Annual Convention and Trade Show, the OAH's member companies will be having a health fair on the High Street side of the Ohio Statehouse from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

All are welcome to come out to the Statehouse and visit the health plans displays to find out more about health and wellness issues.



OAH member companies talk with consumers at last year's Medicaid Care Coordination Plans' Health Fair

