Important News for Children’s Families Covered by Medica

November 4, 2014

Dear Children’s Patient and Medica Insurance Member:

Our records show that you have Medica health insurance and have received care at one of our hospitals or owned or affiliated clinics. If you no longer have Medica coverage please disregard this letter.

I am writing to notify you of a situation that may affect your medical coverage beginning January 1, 2015. We have been actively negotiating our contract with Medica, including Medica SelectCare/LaborCare, which is set to expire at the end of 2014. While both Medica and Children’s are doing their best to come to agreement, we remain far apart at this time.

I share this because we are fast-approaching the period of open enrollment for health insurance. Open enrollment is the period, usually in the fall, when many families select their health care insurance company for the following year. Before selecting a health insurer or plan option for you and your family’s 2015 coverage, I thought you’d want to know what happens if we do not have a contract with Medica by year end. Without a contract, Children’s would no longer be considered a member of Medica’s network. In other words, Children’s hospitals and clinics would be an “out-of-network” provider.

Usually, insurers offer lower benefits to patients using an out-of-network provider. This often results in a greater cost to the patient. To understand whether or not you would be impacted, please contact Medica.

Please know that we will always welcome any child who comes to Children’s, and we will continue to offer services to any family who chooses us; however, we felt obligated to let you know that your costs for such services may change if Children’s is not in Medica’s network.

Your current coverage lasts through the remainder of 2014. Until then, nothing changes; currently scheduled procedures and visits in 2014 are not affected. With regard to 2015 and beyond, we are doing everything possible to avoid any disruption in your access to Children’s. For future updates on the status of our contract negotiations, please visit childrensMN.org.

If you receive Medical Assistance/Medicaid benefits through Medica, please know that there is no fall open enrollment, so please check with the Medical Assistance/Medicaid office or Department of Human Services (DHS) if you have questions about your coverage options.

If you have immediate questions or concerns, please call a special Children’s Helpline at 612-813-6158. We will do our best to answer your questions. For specific questions about future coverage or changes in your cost of care, you should contact Medica at 800-952-3455 or talk to your employer.

Thank you for your continued trust, understanding and support.

Sincerely,
Dave Overman
President and Chief Operating Officer

If you need assistance translating this letter, please call 612-813-6158.
Si necesita ayuda para traducir esta carta por favor llame al 612-813-6158.
Haddii aad u baahantahay in lagaa cawino turjumaada waqaddan, fadlan wac 612-813-6158.
Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais daim ntawv no, thov hu 612-813-6158.