

Pre-Session Reading: Medicaid

Learning Goals and Objectives

- 1. Build a basic understanding of the Medicaid program and its historical context.**
 - a. Describe the pertinent historical events which resulted in the development of the current structure of Medicaid.
 - b. Highlight trends in child health coverage over time, including proportion of children covered and costs of care.
 - c. Compare the US approach to providing child health coverage with that of other nations.
- 2. Describe the role Medicaid currently plays in providing access to care for US children.**
 - a. Explain federal and your state’s eligibility requirements to qualify for Medicaid.
 - b. Describe how Medicaid approaches unique populations: pregnant women, children with special healthcare needs, children in substitute care, and immigrants.
 - c. Compare and contrast private and public insurance coverage for children, and the role of EPSDT in structuring benefits.
 - d. Reflect on how differences in insurance coverage may contribute to health disparities in the US.
- 3. Construct a plan to advocate for health care coverage and access at the individual and system levels with a focus on Medicaid.**
 - a. Create a messaging framework for Medicaid, considering how the language used can reach the broadest audience.
 - b. Implement individual strategies to advocate for patient coverage/access in your county or state.
 - c. Propose systemic advocacy opportunities for Medicaid with your AAP chapter or AAP Federal Affairs.

This document is designed to prepare you for our upcoming discussion on Medicaid and child health coverage. Start by reviewing the learning goals and objectives above – this will help you to focus on the most important details as we go through this information. Next review the information the page that follows as well as the resources that are linked within it.

These materials are designed to be brief – you can plan to spend about 15-30 minutes in total reviewing them. Don’t worry if you do not understand everything by the end of this document – we will be digging in as we go through the material together during the session.

Medicaid: Historical Context and Current Role in Providing Coverage

During the session we will be reviewing the historical context and events that led to the creation of the Medicaid program and how this program impacted on trends in child health coverage over time. We will also examine the role that Medicaid plays in child health currently, with an opportunity to explore how eligibility and coverage functions in your state.

WATCH THIS VIDEO

- *Medicaid Explained: Why it's worse to be sick in some states than others*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOo_aw-xgHQ

The video is 11 minutes total but the most relevant section is between 4:38-7:00, which explains very briefly how Medicaid was started and then talks a little about state to state variability

REVIEW THESE WEBSITES

During the session, we will be reviewing Medicaid eligibility and coverage at both the national and state levels – with an opportunity to specifically examine data for your state. Please take a moment to peruse these websites in advance in order to familiarize yourself with the types of data available.

- <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/by-state.html>
- <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/fact-sheet/where-are-states-today-medicaid-and-chip/>
- <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/state-childrens-health-facts/>

REFLECT ON YOUR PRACTICE

During the session we will have the opportunity to discuss how difference in health insurance coverage contribute to health disparities. Please take a moment to reflect on experiences you may have encountered in the care of specific patients or a population that address this topic and come ready to discuss with the group.

Advocating for Medicaid and Health Care Coverage

In the latter portion of the session, we will devote time to discuss the role of the pediatrician/child health provider in advocating for child health coverage with opportunities to discuss and practice specific strategies.

READ THIS ARTICLE

- <https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2017/06/12/cuts-medicaid-badly-damage-health-care-rural-texas>

Please take a moment to read the linked Op-Ed from Dr. Borum Smith. As you do so, reflect on these questions which we will take some time to discuss in class

- What was effective about the pediatrician's message?
- What knowledge or skills made the pediatrician's voice particularly powerful?
- What might make the message even more effective?

Medicaid Lingo

Sometimes the vocabulary around Medicaid can be unfamiliar. Here is a list of common acronyms and terms that are used in this module for reference.

EPSDT – Early and Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment, a comprehensive and preventive healthcare coverage package provided to those less than 21 years old qualifying for Medicaid

FMAP – Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, rates used to calculate matching funds allocated by the federal government towards joint federal-state partnerships in which benefits are administered by the states.

FPL – Federal Poverty Level, income level calculated annually used to determine eligibility for federally funded services

HRSA – Health Resources and Service Administration, an agency through the Department of Health and Human Services with a goal to improve care for vulnerable populations

FQHC – Federally Qualified Health Center, qualifies for enhanced reimbursement from Medicaid to provide comprehensive care for underserved population

CHIP – Children’s Health Insurance Program, state administered program with federal matching that provides low-cost coverage to children and pregnant women in families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid.