



**National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation
Women's and Children's Health Update
July 2006**

**NIHCM
FOUNDATION**

In this issue

- NIHCM Foundation Presents at HRSA Webcast, "Partnering to Pay for MCH"**
 - Developments and New Research in Women's and Adolescent Health**
 - Health Plan Initiatives to Promote and Improve Child Health**
 - Children's Defense Fund Releases Report on Disparities in Children's Health**
 - New Resources for Health Care Providers**
-

NIHCM Foundation Presents at HRSA Webcast, "Partnering to Pay for MCH"

Nancy Chockley, President and CEO of NIHCM Foundation, presented at a Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) sponsored webcast, "Partnering to Pay for MCH," on June 6, 2006. Ms. Chockley's presentation outlined the key health care trends facing both the public and private sectors and described what health plans are doing to address the needs of women and children. Other presenters included Ron Finch, National Business Group on Health; Elise Desjardins, Grantmakers in Health; and Stephanie McGencey, Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families. The webcast archive provides the webcast video and presentation slides.

More information on NIHCM Foundation's work in Maternal and Child Health is available through the MCH Corner on NIHCM's website.

Developments and New Research in Women's and Adolescent Health

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves a cervical cancer vaccine, Gardasil, for women aged 9-26 years. Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States, can cause genital warts and abnormal cell growth leading to cervical cancer. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which advises CDC (who in turn advise school districts and other authorities), agreed to recommend the vaccine for three age groups – all young girls aged 11 and 12; girls and women aged 13 to 26 who have not received the vaccine yet; and women who have had abnormal pap smears, genital warts, or certain other conditions. Wellpoint, Inc. announced that it will cover the HPV vaccine.

New research published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* indicates that young black women with breast cancer are more prone than whites or older blacks to develop a type of tumor with genetic traits that make it especially deadly and hard to treat.

The Center for Adolescent Health and the Law's issue brief "Health Care for Adolescents and Young Adults Leaving Foster Care: Policy Options for Improving Access," outlines policy options, including the use of existing Medicaid and SCHIP frameworks, for sustaining health insurance coverage for adolescents leaving foster care and transitioning into adulthood.

A report published in the June 9, 2006 MMWR indicates that "many high school students continue to engage in behaviors that place them at risk for the leading causes of mortality and morbidity." The results were obtained through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), the primary source of data measuring Healthy People 2010 objectives and leading health indicators.

~~~~~  
**Health Plan Initiatives to Promote and Improve Child Health**  
~~~~~

Blue Cross of California (BCC) launches a BMI Training and Promotion program. "Taking Measures for Their Future" is a statewide program to train clinical staff in body mass index (BMI) measurement. The program, part of BCC's \$9 million, 3-year statewide childhood obesity initiative, will reach more than 9,000 pediatric and family practices, promoting statewide use of BMI as a screening tool for obesity and overweight during well-child visits.

Highmark donates \$100 million, over 5 years, to the Highmark Foundation supporting child health promotion initiatives. Research of emerging health issues indicates that children's health promotion is an important issue to Pennsylvania communities. Many child health advocates fear American children are at risk of living sicker and dying younger than the generation before them.

~~~~~  
**Children's Defense Fund Releases Report on Disparities in Children's Health**  
~~~~~

As part of their children's health disparities project, the Children's Defense Fund's (CDF) released a new report, "Improving Children's Health, Understanding Children's Health Disparities and Promising Approaches to Address Them." The report provides an overview of health disparities, determinants of health outcomes, promising approaches to address disparities, themes and lessons, and recommendations for broader policies and initiatives to eliminate health disparities for children.

Through a grant with HRSA's MCHB, NIHCM Foundation is investigating disparities in maternal and child health and will be hosting a forum on this topic in the fall of 2006. Please continue to visit our website for up-to-date information.

~~~~~  
**New Resources for Health Care Providers**  
~~~~~

HRSA provides a collection of cultural competence resources for health care providers including assessment tools, research, culture/language specific and disease/condition specific resources, resources pertaining to special populations, health profession educational resources, training curricula, web-based training, and resources providing technical assistance.

A Practical Guide for Healthy Development, created by the Healthy Development Learning Collaborative, is a set of six online learning modules to help primary care providers develop office systems to provide services to families that are timely and appropriate. Topics include developmental screening and surveillance, family psychosocial screening and surveillance, eliciting parents' concerns, anticipatory guidance and parental education, and linking with the community. Each module contains a checklist of suggested activities, methods to monitor progress, and recommended intervals for conducting activities.

The latest Bright Futures resource, "What to Expect and When to Seek Help," helps families and service providers foster healthy social and emotional development of children and adolescents. Each tool addresses a different stage of development: infancy, early childhood, middle childhood, and adolescence. An additional tool assists providers in locating community-based services for families and in creating a referral network.

NIHCM Foundation is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of America's health care system. The Foundation conducts research, policy analysis and educational activities on a range of health care issues. It fosters dialogue between the private health care industry and the public sector to find workable solutions to health system problems. Detailed information about the Foundation's projects and publications is available on our newly designed web site, www.nihcm.org.

The Women's and Children's Health Update is produced by NIHCM Foundation under a grant (1G96MC04446) from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Contact Information
~~~~~

email: [nihcm@nihcm.org](mailto:nihcm@nihcm.org)  
phone: (202) 296-4426  
web: <http://www.nihcm.org>  
~~~~~

[Forward email](#)

This email was sent by nihcm@nihcm.org
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation | 1225 19th Street, NW | Suite 710 |
Washington | DC | 20036