



Ohio Children's Hospital Association
Saving, protecting and enhancing children's lives

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

For immediate release

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Steve Allen, M.D., Chairman, Ohio Children's Hospital Association Board of Directors, and CEO, Nationwide Children's Hospital, today issued the following statement in response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Ohio's children's hospitals work to save, protect and enhance the lives of Ohio's children, providing high quality care to every child regardless of their family's ability to pay. Importantly, 28,000 Ohioans go to work each day to advance this mission in our state.

Today's ruling upholds several provisions that are important to children and children's hospitals, including the requirement to cover children with preexisting conditions and prohibition of annual and lifetime coverage limits; a temporary increase in Medicaid reimbursement to the Medicare levels for pediatricians, specialists and primary care providers and requiring states to maintain current Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage through September 2019; and initiatives to promote delivery system reforms, such as authorization of a pediatric accountable care organization demonstration projects and a program to provide enhanced Medicaid payment for coordination of care for individuals with chronic complex conditions.

Additionally, today's ruling secures the future of three important projects here in Ohio through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), which was created under the ACA to test and evaluate innovative payment and service delivery models while enhancing quality of care. Ohio's children's hospitals are leading the nation through these projects, which include the following:

1. The Ohio Children's Hospitals' Solutions for Patient Safety (OCHSPS) Hospital Engagement Network: OCHSPS is a nonprofit corporation established by Ohio's eight children's hospitals to improve quality and safety in children's hospitals statewide and is one of 26 Hospital Engagement Networks (HENs) funded under the Partnership for Patients initiative. OCHSPS is the only effort in the nation that is focused on pediatric care and reducing Medicaid costs associated with care for children. The network is funded through a \$4.3 million contract over two years, with the option for a third year of funding at \$1.6 million. Goals of the network include a 40% reduction in hospital acquired conditions (such as adverse drug events, falls, pressure ulcers and surgical site infections); a 20% reduction in hospital readmissions; and a 25% reduction in serious safety events by December 31, 2013. More information is available at www.solutionsforpatientsafety.org.

2. University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital (Cleveland, Ohio) Physician Extension Team (PET): The PET is a three-year, \$12.7 million dollar program funded through CMMI that will leverage Rainbow's clinical expertise and resources to create a medical neighborhood that aligns the goals of patients, physicians, hospitals, managed care plans, communities and the government to address the needs of all children, resulting in better care, better health and lower costs. Once it is fully funded, PET will result in the hiring of 38 new full-time employees and involve at least 120 primary care providers caring for 68,000 children. PET will consist of care coordination for children with complex chronic conditions that includes physicians, nurses, dietitians and family-based facilitators; integrated behavioral health services through psychiatry consults and inappropriate emergency department intervention; access to a 24/7 three-tiered telehealth system; and a comprehensive public outreach and education campaign.

3. Nationwide Children's Hospital (Columbus, Ohio) and Akron Children's Hospital Partners for Kids

Expansion (PFK): PFK is the largest and oldest accountable care organization focused solely on Medicaid-enrolled children in the nation. Originally launched by Nationwide Children's in 1994, PFK contracts with area Medicaid managed care plans, which receive a set amount of money each month from the State of Ohio for the health care needs of each child covered. The plans then pass a dollar amount per child (also known as a capitated amount) onto PFK. PFK becomes responsible for covering all the health care needs of each child, regardless of where they receive care. By receiving a set amount of funds for all the health care needs of a child, the PFK program incentivizes quality outcomes and prevention. To date, PFK has reduced neonatal intensive care unit length of stay, reduced the premature birth rate, decreased emergency room visits and increased immunizations for high-risk children. This program, with \$13.1 million in funding from CMMI, will expand the PFK model in partnership with Akron Children's to cover a total of 517,000 Medicaid-enrolled children in 46 of Ohio's 88 counties, covering the urban northeast area to the southern tip of the state, including rural central and southeastern Appalachian counties. Additionally it will cover 25,000 previously excluded disabled Ohio children. More information is available at www.PartnersforKids.org.

While Congress and the White House continue to debate how to improve the nation's health care system and reduce costs, we urge leaders to make the health care needs of children a priority.

Our primary concern is protecting the more than one million Ohio children who rely on Medicaid for health care coverage to ensure that they do not get lost as nearly one million uninsured adult Ohioans join the Medicaid population in 2013. Key to accomplishing this important task is working closely with Ohio lawmakers, Governor Kasich's administration and, specifically, Ohio Office of Health Transformation Director Moody and Ohio Medicaid Director McCarthy to reform Ohio Medicaid while adhering ACA provisions.

Ohio's children's hospitals support health care reform that ensures that all Ohio children have reasonable geographic and financial access to cost-effective, high quality, essential health care services. Ohio is fortunate to have the best statewide network of children's hospitals in the nation, and we will continue to provide the highest quality of care to all Ohio children.

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