



Wyoming Department of Health

Dave Freudenthal, Governor

Deborah K. Fleming, Ph.D., Director

July 28, 2004

Ref: GM-2004-309

Dear Medicaid Provider:

Re: Wyoming Medicaid/EqualityCare Program Announcement

Effective August 1, 2004, the Office of Medicaid, together with APS Healthcare, will be implementing **Healthy Together**, a wellness program that includes a component for chronic illness support. These services will be available to all Medicaid clients. Our goal in providing these services will be to educate clients, coordinate care, and address the total health status of clients in order to improve both the continuity and quality of care and to lower costs.

Healthy Together, which provides prevention, support and education services, is for those living with chronic disease such as, but not limited to: asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, depression, diabetes, and high risk pregnancies. This program is designed to assist physicians in monitoring and supporting clients and will promote client compliance with their providers' treatment plans.

Under the **Healthy Together** program, a health coach who is a registered nurse, dietitian, certified diabetes educator, licensed social worker or clinical psychologist, provides the services. The support and information will be specific to each member's needs. It may be available through the Internet, interactive devices, over the phone, or through newsletters or other written materials. On-site physicians provide medical guidance for the APS staff.

An additional component of the program will provide an emphasis on wellness and healthy living to include educational materials for the entire Medicaid population. The program will also provide reminders for annual exams and vaccinations as well as a toll-free phone number for client access to highly qualified and specialized registered nurses 24 hours a day.

Healthy Together does not replace a doctor's care. It is intended only as a source for information, support and guidance. **Healthy Together** is a free, voluntary program for Medicaid clients. APS Healthcare is an experienced leader in providing case management, utilization management, health and disease management, and behavioral health care services and will be contacting you in the near future to discuss how their services can assist you in the treatment of your Medicaid patients.

Medicaid enrolled recipients may be called or receive a letter from APS staff regarding these services. If you are following a Medicaid client who might benefit from **Healthy Together** services, please refer them to APS by calling toll-free (877) 545-1710, during regular business hours.

Sincerely,

Gary Melinkovich M.D., M.P.H., Staff Physician
Wyoming Department of Health

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