



Lucile Packard Children's Hospital

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

November 4, 2011

Toby Douglas
Director
Department of Health Care Services
1501 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Douglas:

I am writing on behalf of Lucile Packard Children's Hospital to strongly urge the Department of Health Care Services to exempt children and youth under age 21 from the Department's proposed "duals demonstration projects" for people who are recipients of both Medi-Cal and Medicare. The paper released by the Department for comment last month makes no mention of children and youth as either included or excluded from these demonstrations. In fact, the paper makes no mention of children or youth at all, and we suspect this is because the Department is unaware that there are children and youth in the duals population. To our knowledge, the one medical condition that would make children/youth eligible for Medicare is end-stage renal disease (ESRD). Children and youth with this condition are also medically eligible for the California Children's Services (CCS) program and their medical care is managed via CCS.

Although we don't know exactly how many children and youth below age 21 are in the dual (Medi-Cal/Medicare) population in California-- we assume the state can easily find that out-- we do believe that it is a very small number statewide. The American Academy of Pediatrics estimates the national prevalence of ESRD at about 18.5 per one million children, and applying that prevalence rate to about 4 million children on Medi-Cal yields 74 children/youth. The medical literature reports that the etiology and treatment of ESRD in children is very different from that of adults, indicating that these children and youth are more likely to receive the specialized care and management they need through CCS. These facts argue against inclusion of children and youth with ESRD under age 21 in the proposed duals demonstration projects.

Once again, we urge you to exempt all children and youth under age 21 from the duals demonstration projects. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherri R. Sager".

Sherri R. Sager
Chief Government Relations Officer

cc: Peter Harbage, Harbage Consulting

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