

**For Immediate Release**  
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**HPSM/CCS Project Aims  
to Improve Access to Care  
for Special Needs Children**

**South San Francisco, Calif.**—The Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM), San Mateo County’s community health plan for Medi-Cal and other publicly funded health coverage programs, has been appointed as one of five organizations to implement pilot projects to enhance and improve care for children with chronic health needs through the California Children’s Services (CCS) Program.

The focus of this project will be coordinating all aspects of care for the children—a consolidation of their primary care, specialty care, social and psychological needs. HPSM is the only managed care organization with this project model.

“We’re bringing together the strengths of two organizations—the County-run CCS Program and HPSM—to provide greater care,” said HPSM Medical Director Dr. Mary Giammona. “By reducing administrative hurdles, we’ll be able to focus on what we do best—helping our members.”

The primary goals of this pilot project are to

- Improve health outcomes by
  - o providing greater interaction between physicians and specialists
  - o coordinating the primary, specialty, social and psychological needs of patients
  - o raising patient satisfaction with the Program
- Improve Program responsibility and oversight by
  - o saving staff time and financial resources with a unified process
  - o lessening duplication of administrative material between agencies
  - o eliminating authorization of necessary services by multiple parties
- Expand eligible services\*
  - o providing care coordination services (e.g., for severe asthma, morbid obesity/eating disorders and pre-diabetes, and certain congenital syndromes)

Roughly 1,800–1,850 children will be enrolled in the pilot project, which is scheduled to begin on January 1, 2012. HPSM and San Mateo County CCS estimate that consolidating authorizations and claims will allow staff to focus 25% to 50% more time to providing high-quality care coordination for enrolled children.

“We’re very grateful to the San Mateo County CCS Program and our community partners for helping in this effort,” said HPSM CEO Maya Altman. “San Mateo County Health System, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital (LPCH), Community Gatepath, the Golden Gate Regional Center, the County Office of Education, and UCSF all wrote letters in support of our proposal—we couldn’t have done it without their support.” LPCH provides the majority of inpatient and specialty care for CCS children served in San Mateo County.

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*We fight to make a difference in our community.*

**701 Gateway Blvd. Suite 400 South San Francisco, CA 94080**



**the  
healthy  
fight.**

**\* As cost savings allow.**

**About HPSM**

The Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) is a local public health plan that provides health care benefits to San Mateo County's historically underserved residents. Current membership is approximately 100,000. Members of HPSM receive benefits through Medi-Cal, CareAdvantage, Healthy Families, Healthy Kids, HealthWorx, and the San Mateo County ACE/MCE Program. HPSM is governed by the San Mateo Health Commission. Members of the Commission represent community advocates, physicians, pharmacists, hospitals, and elected officials who serve on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. At HPSM, we fight to make a difference in our community, to turn our vision of better health into a reality. Learn more on the web at [www.hpsm.org](http://www.hpsm.org).

**About CCS**

California Children's Services (CCS) is a state program for children with certain diseases or health problems, operated in San Mateo County by the County Health System CCS Program. Through this program, children up to 21 years old can get the health care and services they need. CCS connects patients and their families with doctors and trained health care people who know how to care for children with special health care needs.