



healthy is for everyone

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**Local Health Plan
Tops Nation in Child
Immunizations**

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, now has the nation’s highest rate of child members immunized on five important measures, according to the 2010 rankings of the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®). HEDIS is a performance measurement tool of the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA), used by more than 90% of America’s health plans.

HPSM’s number one scores are for the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR) with 98.3% children immunized, the chickenpox vaccine (VZV) with 98.3% immunized, pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (93.43% immunized), tetanus and acellular pertussis (DTaP) with 92.21% immunized, and other multiple vaccines (Combo 3) with 87.35% children covered.

“As a pediatrician and a mother, I believe an investment in childhood immunizations should be a foundation and focus of any health plan and any community,” said Dr. Mary Giammona, HPSM’s medical director. “Protecting our children’s health is an investment in our future.”

HPSM’s successful child immunization program consists of fliers, direct-mail reminder postcards, and \$15 Target gift card incentives (courtesy of San Mateo County’s First 5 Program). HPSM health educators also work with the San Mateo County Health System to assist plan physicians in using a county created immunization registry, helping the plan and physicians track which children need follow-up to get fully immunized. Materials are provided in both English and Spanish, and HPSM has bilingual staff to ensure questions are answered in the member’s primary language. HPSM staff members also speak Chinese, Tagalog, and Russian, and use a phone interpreter service for other languages.

“At HPSM, we fight every day to ensure our members receive high quality care,” said CEO Maya Altman. “But the real honor goes to our partner hospitals, providers, and the staff who support them. It is their professionalism and dedication that show in these results. I’m happy in the knowledge that together we’re helping so many families get the quality care they need.”

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We fight to make a difference in our community.

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Definitions

Combo 3: Multiple vaccines that all had to be received by a specific age

DTaP: Diphtheria, Tetanus and acellular Pertussis vaccine

MMR: Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine

Pneumococcal Conjugate: A vaccine used to protect infants and young children against disease caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (pneumococcus)

VZV: Varicella Zoster Virus (Chickenpox vaccine)

About NHQA and HEDIS

The National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) is an independent not-for-profit organization dedicated to assessing and reporting on the quality of managed care plans, managed behavioral healthcare organizations, preferred provider organizations, new health plans, physician organizations, credentials verification organizations, disease management programs and other health-related programs. The NCQA's Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures 71 performance measures across eight domains of care. The data make it possible to compare health plans on an "apples-to-apples" basis. HEDIS is an annual program. Learn more at www.ncqa.org.

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 94,631. Members of HPSM receive benefits through Medi-Cal, CareAdvantage, Healthy Families, Healthy Kids, and HealthWorx programs. 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 at www.hpsm.org.