

Central Ohio Medical Directors Coalition



May 1, 2003

Dear Colleague:

Physicians are often faced with overlapping and sometimes conflicting guidelines in the management of patient health conditions. This variation contributes to low use of common tools and guidelines; and can therefore be a barrier to quality. We are working to increase the coordination among some organizations that create these materials.

The organizations listed on this letter are working together to pursue the goal of:

- Improving outcomes (for all patients, not one health plan)
- Promoting evidenced based care
- Working collaboratively on one set of tools and guidelines for all plans.

The enclosed **2003 Formulary Guide** is a product of a continuing joint effort of the Central Ohio Medical Directors Coalition (COMDC). This guide contains the most widely prescribed drug classes (generic and brand) and the related health plan preferred brands. Many physicians have posted this guide in a convenient location in their office for a quick reference when making prescribing decisions for specific patients. The formulary guide is also available at www.COMDC.org.

Similarly, COMDC has chosen Diabetes for guideline preparation, based on the following:

- The Central Ohio region, as well as Ohio as a whole, exceeds national averages as to the incidence and prevalence of diabetes and mortality rates caused by diabetes.
- While most organizations have supplied diabetes guidelines, a single, agreed-upon document has never been disseminated.

Aetna

Anthem Blue Cross
And Blue Shield

Columbus Health
Department

Nationwide Health Plans

Ohio KePro

OSU Managed Health
Care System

The Medical Group of Ohio

United Healthcare

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The Central Ohio Medical Directors Coalition is a collaborative health care initiative between several central Ohio health plans and the Columbus Health Department, with the goal of Improving community health—making central Ohio “The Healthiest Community in America.”

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The enclosed **diabetes guideline, flow sheet and community diabetes education resources** have been developed for two practical reasons:

- Record based tools (i.e., flow sheets) are beneficial in ensuring regular delivery of recommended services - it is difficult to keep up with all aspects of care for all patients without a systematic aid and current resource information.
- Health plans that measure performance according to HEDIS and ACHE (URAC) specifications can use the flow sheet for data collection.

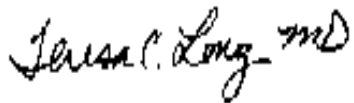
Physicians who use the flow sheet for every patient will:

- Improve the care of their patients with diabetes.
- Meet documentation requirements of collaborating health plans listed on this letter
- Minimize time and expense of reviewing and copying records
- Allow health plans to conduct faster, more accurate review of their medical records

For your convenience, copies of the guideline, flow sheet, and organizations with ADA certified diabetes education programs are included. The flow sheet is laminated to preserve it during duplication. Copies of the flow sheet may be used to record every patient's diabetic information and should be retained in their medical record. All these materials are additionally available at www.COMDC.org.

We hope that you find this and our previous mailings to be helpful to your practice and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours in good health,



Teresa C. Long, M.D., M.P.H.
Chair, Central Ohio Medical Directors Coalition
Health Commissioner, City of Columbus