AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) UPDATE
2014 has thus far been a time of exciting changes for CenCal Health and our Provider community. CenCal Health’s membership has grown at a swift pace, adding over 27,000 members. Many of these members are new to having health insurance, and CenCal Health would like to thank all of our Providers for your support in educating this new population.

In January, CenCal Health began providing mental health services to members. With the help of our mental health benefits manager, The Holman Group, CenCal Health has provided 6,500 mental health visits for members since the beginning of the year. As information on these new benefits continues to spread, more members will access the care they need. This new benefit supports members with counseling, medication management and other services.

In March 2014, CenCal Health made its first payment to eligible physicians for the Primary Care Rate Increase provision under the ACA. Over 900 individual physicians and physician groups were paid $4.6 M for services rendered in 2013. Once funds were received from the State of California, CenCal Health quickly paid contracted physicians in our local service areas of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. Future payments under the ACA are dependent on funding from the State of California, which has not yet been received by CenCal Health. The Plan anticipates that the next round of ACA payments will be in the Fall of 2014 for services rendered in 2013 and 2014.

Please call the Provider Services Department at 805.562.1676 if you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes.

HEDIS® 2014 QUALITY OF CARE – RESULTS ARE IN
CenCal Health thanks all Providers for their support during the recent HEDIS 2014 quality of care audit that assesses our health plan’s compliance with preventive care and other quality measures.

Overall, CenCal Health scored higher for several aspects of care with more measures that ranked in the top 10th percentile nationally for Medicaid plans. This year’s results reflect an improvement upon the results reported during 2013, which recently earned recognition from the Department of Health Care Services that issued an Honorable Mention Quality Award for the quality care CenCal Health members have access to.

Areas of Excellence
For Santa Barbara Health Initiative (SBHI), high performance (above the 90th percentile) continued to be seen in two diabetes measures; A1c control (59% had A1c levels <8.0%) and diabetic eye exams (69%). Also, childhood immunization rates (84%) continued to remain high. San Luis Obispo Health Initiative (SLOHI) providers also achieved the highest levels of performance for the percentage of members with uncontrolled A1c levels <9.0% (31%).

(CONTINUED)
HEALTHIER LIVING CLASSES

Living with a chronic illness – like arthritis, diabetes, heart or lung disease – is difficult. But a self-management program, developed by Stanford University, has shown to be effective in improving the quality of life for these patients. Classes are held for 2 ½ hours once a week for 6 weeks in an interactive learning environment with trained leaders. If your member is struggling with their disease, encourage them to call and reserve a place in the next session. Classes will be offered in the cities below. Call the program for details or dates of future classes:

**SANTA BARBARA** – 2 Locations
- **Sansum Clinic**
  Call 866.829.0909 or [www.sansumclinic.org/classes](http://www.sansumclinic.org/classes)
  Next session begins in August. Classes in English. Co-sponsored by Sansum Clinic, CenCal Health and Partners in Care Foundation.
- **Mental Wellness Center**
  Call (805) 884-8840

**SAN LUIS OBISPO** – Call 805.542.6268
Next session begins in September. Classes in English. Offered by Dignity Health, French Regional Medical Center.

**SANTA MARIA** – Call 805.739.3578
Next session begins in August. Classes in Spanish. Offered by Dignity Health, Marian Regional Medical Center.

**OCEANO** – Call 805.739.3578
Next session begins in October. Classes in Spanish. Offered by Dignity Health, Marian Regional Medical Center.

ON THE HORIZON – SCREENING, BRIEF INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL TO TREATMENT TRAINING AND COVERED CALIFORNIA UPDATES MEETING

We have two exciting trainings on the horizon in August, please visit the For Providers – Educational Trainings & Seminars section of CenCal Health’s website at [www.cencalhealth.org](http://www.cencalhealth.org) to view details on upcoming events!
- August 20th, 2014 Covered California Updates – What your health care team needs to know!
- August 26th, 2014 Screening, Brief Intervention, & Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Training – CME Credits Available!

If you have additional questions, please contact our Education Specialist at [providerevents@cencalhealth.org](mailto:providerevents@cencalhealth.org)
Provider Alert: Pertussis Epidemic Declared--Vaccinate Pregnant Women and Pediatric Patients

July 1, 2014

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Director and State Health Officer has declared a pertussis epidemic and is urging the healthcare community to protect young infants who are most vulnerable to complications and death from pertussis. As of June 24, 2014, 4,558 pertussis cases had been reported to CDPH, more than the number reported in all of 2013. Locally, there have been 21 cases of pertussis since January, 2014 with 7 of these cases reported in June. There are three additional cases currently under investigation.

Infants too young to be fully immunized are most likely to be hospitalized or die from pertussis. Of the cases reported so far this year in California, 177 cases were infants <4 months of age; 89 (50%) of whom were hospitalized. Tragically, 3 infants in California, all too young to be vaccinated, have died from pertussis in 2014. The Santa Barbara County Health Officer, Dr. Charity Thoman and CDPH recommend that prenatal providers follow the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) recommendations to immunize all pregnant women between 27 and 36 weeks gestation with Tdap vaccine during each pregnancy, regardless of the number of prior doses of Tdap previously received, to maximize protection of the newborn infant. This strategy provides protection to the infant from maternal antibodies transferred from the vaccinated mother to the fetus, helping to protect infants until they are old enough to be vaccinated.

Infants should be vaccinated against pertussis with the DTaP vaccine without delay. The first dose is routinely recommended at 2 months of age but can be given as early as 6 weeks of age. Even one dose of DTaP vaccine may offer protection against fatal pertussis infection. Children need five doses of DTaP vaccine by kindergarten (ages 4 – 6 years). A Tdap booster is recommended for adolescents at age 11-12 years. Also, adults who haven’t yet received Tdap should receive it, especially if they are in contact with infants or if they are healthcare workers who may have contact with infants or pregnant women.

It is important that patients consistently receive clear information regarding Tdap/DTaP immunization. By coordinating efforts across the state, we can increase immunization of pregnant women during the third trimester and young infants.

Please continue to report suspect, probable and confirmed pertussis cases via the CalREDIE Provider Portal. You may also visit our Immunization Program website at: www.sbcphd.org/iz or contact the Disease Control Program 24/7 at (805) 681-5280 or our website at www.sbcphd.org/dcp