BMC HealthNet Plan began enrolling members into Commonwealth Care – the state’s program for residents without health insurance – in November. In just two months, the Plan has emerged as the managed care organization (MCO) of choice, serving thousands of new members in all of the state’s 38 defined service areas.

“As of November 1st, we are the leader among the four MCOs in member choice. We want all members to make a choice and not wait for the state to assign them to a plan,” said John Cragin, the Plan’s senior director of Commonwealth Care.

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Keeping Providers Informed

• To learn more about the four Commonwealth Care plan types as well as eligibility requirements for our MassHealth product, please visit BMC HealthNet Plan’s newly revised Web site, www.bmchp.org.

• The Plan’s Provider Manual has been updated with an addendum that features the benefits and services covered under Commonwealth Care Plan Types I through IV. This information is posted on our Web site.

• A compact disc (CD) of the entire Provider Manual, including the Commonwealth Care Addendum, will be mailed to network providers shortly.

• If you have questions about Commonwealth Care Health Insurance, please contact John Cragin, Senior Director of Commonwealth Care, at john.cragin@bmchp.org, or Eric Goldstein, Project Lead for Network Management, at eric.goldstein@bmchp.org.
Clinical Affairs staff expands

The Office of Clinical Affairs partners with providers to develop and implement programs that focus on wellness, health maintenance, prevention, and disease management. Overseen by John Robinson, MD, chief medical officer, the Office of Clinical Affairs recently expanded with the addition of:

✦ **Russell Munson, MD, FAAFP**, is the medical director at the Plan’s Southeastern Massachusetts regional office in New Bedford. Munson previously served as medical director at Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Connecticut. For 20 years, he served as a practicing family physician in Chester, Conn.

✦ **Elizabeth Ross Wong, MD**, medical director of Behavioral Health, oversees the behavioral health programs and services at the Plan. She previously served as medical director Magellan Health Services, the partner to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. She is board certified in general, child and adolescent psychiatry.

✦ **Steve Bucchianeri, Pharm D**, is the newly hired director of pharmacy. A graduate of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, where he also earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree, Bucchianeri has considerable managed care experience. He previously worked at Tufts Health Plan, Curascript Pharmacy, and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care.

Other members of the Office of Clinical Affairs include Andrew Balder, MD, based in Springfield, the Plan’s medical director for the Western Massachusetts region, and Richard Kalish, MD, based in Boston, who serves as medical director for the Eastern Massachusetts region.

Web site sports new look

The Plan’s Web site – www.bmchp.org – has been redesigned for easier navigation.

Streamlined process aids credentialing

New and returning physicians and allied health practitioners must be credentialled by BMC HealthNet Plan before becoming participating providers. The Plan encourages the use of the Integrated Massachusetts Application for initial credentialing and the Application for Recredentialing/Reappointment for recredentialing processes.

“Using the common application makes it easier to process new and existing clinicians,” said Betsy Maloof, the Plan’s credentialing manager. She notes that, “Each clinician must be recredentialled every two years to maintain participation.”

The Plan’s requirements regarding credentialing can be found in Section 12 of the Provider Manual, available online with your provider login at www.bmchp.org, or by calling your provider account representative for a copy.

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Plan increases vaccine reimbursement rates

BMC HealthNet Plan is increasing vaccine reimbursement rates to all providers by approximately 20%.

said John Robinson, MD, BMC HealthNet Plan chief medical officer. “This affects all vaccines not covered by the state’s Vaccine for Children program, as well as other routine vaccines required to maintain the health of our members.”

In addition, the Plan will continue to pay for both an office visit and administering a vaccine.

A Network Notification detailing the change in vaccine reimbursement policy has been mailed to all Plan providers and is available online, with your provider login, at www.bmchp.org.

Pertussis is on the rise

With the recently reported increases in pertussis (whooping cough) cases, the Plan recommends that providers review pediatric and adult vaccination guidelines.

Children are immunized through a series of four doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccinations. The Plan recommends that a booster dose be administered every 10 years through adulthood.

The Massachusetts Department of Health offers guidelines on how to treat and obtain the free vaccines. Visit their Web site at http://www.mass.gov/dph, or visit the Clinical Programs page on our Web site.

HPV vaccine coverage

The Plan is reimbursing coverage of the newly approved human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine for females between nine and 26 years old. HPV is the principle cause of cervical cancer and genital warts.

The Plan began covering this once FDA approval was received.

As with other vaccines, the reimbursement for administering the HPV vaccine will also be increased.

Pocket guides for pediatric patients

Free copies of BMC HealthNet Plan’s immunization pocket guides for members with young children can be obtained by sending an e-mail to provider.news@bmchp.org.
Cragin noted that approximately one third of the new members — split evenly between male and female — are between the ages of 19 and 25, with an estimated fifty percent between the ages of 19 and 35. These new members are enrolled in Commonwealth Care Plan Type I, which provides comprehensive healthcare coverage, including dental and vision benefits, for individuals who fall under 100 percent of the federal poverty level.

“Beginning in January 2007, we expect to continue to lead the way by offering health insurance to even more individuals who meet the state’s eligibility requirements when we rollout the remaining three Commonwealth Care Plan Types,” Cragin said.