

# Colorado

## *Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP)*

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**Contact Person:** Sandra Jacquez  
Provider Consultant

**Telephone:** (303) 692-2387  
**Fax:** (303) 782-5576

**Address:** FCHSD - HCP - A4  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, CO 80246-1530

**Email Address:** SANDRA.JACQUEZ@STATE.CO.US

**Web Site:**

**Toll-free Hot Line:** Family Health Line

**Telephone:** 1-800-688-7777

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

HCP pays for direct care services through contracts with specialty providers for low income children without other insurance resources who have conditions that have the potential for resulting in disabilities and who require specialty care. HCP local staff in public health agencies provide care coordination services for children eligible for direct care benefits. To the extent possible based on local resources, HCP staff also provide care coordination services for children with complex medical conditions who have other insurance.

#### **AGE:**

Birth to 21 years of age.

#### **RESIDENCY:**

Eligible families must physically reside within the state of Colorado with the intent to remain.

#### **MEDICAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

The primary purpose of HCP is to provide needed services to children with conditions that have the potential for resulting in disabilities and who require specialty care.

#### **Eligible Conditions:**

Eligible conditions include: congenital and acquired defects of the muscles, bones, internal organs, sensory organs, and skin.

***Excluded Conditions:***

- AIDS \*
- Asthma
- Cancer \*
- Diabetes
- Hemophilia \*
- Renal/kidney disorders

\* Acute care is not provided but rehabilitative services may be provided.

***FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:***

Financial eligibility is determined on an individual basis by considering family size, income, and resources.

***General Financial Eligibility:***

Families are eligible for direct care services if the family income is below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level. Eligible families receive services free of charge. The figures included in the table below are effective July 1, 2000.

<b>FAMILY SIZE</b>	<b>MAXIMUM YEARLY GROSS INCOME 133%</b>
1	11,106
2	14,963
3	18,820
4	22,677
5	26,534
6	30,391
7	34,248
8	38,105
9	41,962
10	45,819
11	49,676
12	53,533
This year's incremental amount for additional family members is \$3,857	

Note: Also see information under "Coordination of Financial Benefits."

***Financial Eligibility for Diagnostic Evaluation:***

Diagnostic evaluations only are provided for families free of charge with a financial rating between 133% and 150% of the Federal Poverty Level.

***Family Co-Payment or Financial Participation Requirements:***

Not addressed. Contact the Program directly for more information.

***SCOPE OF SERVICES***

***SERVICES:***

The program pays for diagnosis and treatment services with emphasis on early detection and intervention. It provides inpatient and outpatient hospital care; physician services; physical, occupational, and speech therapy; expendable and durable medical equipment; home health care; orthodontia; and nutrition services. The nature and extent of services provided may depend on the specific diagnosis.

HCP pays for necessary specialty services for eligible children enrolled in CHP+ (the state's Title XXI insurance plan for children) or who have private insurance when such services are not covered. Examples of these "wrap-around" services include durable medical equipment and therapy services which are needed beyond set maximum benefit levels, nutrition assessment and counseling services, hearing aids, and orthodontia for children with severe handicapping malocclusions.

***Excluded Services:***

With the exception of drugs used for the treatment of children with cystic fibrosis, drugs are not provided. Mental health/counseling services are not provided. Primary and acute care services are excluded.

***HOW/WHERE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED:***

HCP contracts with specialty providers all over the state to provide services. In rural parts of the state, the Program sponsors specialty outreach clinics where providers from urban centers travel to remote areas to hold clinics usually on a quarterly basis. Over 300 days of clinics are provided around the state.

***Specialty Clinics/Programs:*** (in rural areas)

Cardiac Clinics  
Development Evaluation Clinic  
Neurology Clinics  
Orthopedic and Arthropedic Clinics  
Otologic Clinic  
Rehabilitation Clinics  
Vision screening Clinics

***Out-of-State Services:***

On a case-by-case review and only because the surgery or services cannot be done in Colorado.

***COORDINATION OF FINANCIAL BENEFITS AND SERVICES:***

***Coordination of Financial Benefits:***

Families who are legal residents of the state and appear to be financially eligible for Medicaid or the state's health insurance program for children, called Child Health Plan Plus or CHP+, are required to apply to these programs before they are enrolled in HCP. Children who appear to be qualified for SSI are also required to make the initial contact with SSI before enrollment in HCP. During the Medicaid, CHP+ and SSI applications process, HCP staff register families with HCP and provide the care coordination to assist them in accessing needed medical and support services. When urgent care (which is not considered emergency care through Medicaid) is needed, children who are waiting for determination of eligibility for Medicaid and CHP+ are temporarily enrolled in HCP and needed services are paid for.

When eligible families have private health insurance, that third party payor is billed for the needed services first. HCP may then pay for any eligible part of the bill not paid by insurance up to the limits of HCP's fee schedule. Specialty providers agree to accept HCP payment and can not bill families for unpaid balances.

***Coordination of Services:***

Care coordination is an ongoing process carried out by local HCP staff in partnership with the family to assist and enable the infant/child and their family to receive the rights, procedural safeguards, and services that are available to the family in the community. Central to community based care coordination is fostering of linkages between the tertiary medical center and community health care providers, as well as other community service providers.

The HCP staff is responsible for assuring that health related issues are integrated into the Individual Family Service Plans for children 3 years of age and below or into a complex care plan for children over 3 years. He/she is an integral part of an interagency team working together on behalf of the family and the child.

***SPECIALIZED OR UNIQUE SERVICES, SPECIAL GRANTS, WORKSHOPS, ETC.:***

Several screening questions designed to identify children with special health care needs have been printed on the joint CHP+/Medicaid application form. When one or more questions are marked with a “yes”, the application is forwarded to HCP for follow-up. A local HCP staff member calls the family to identify the care needs. When services are needed immediately, the HMO is notified.

Each year HCP helps fund several workshops for providers and parents. The Public Health Traineeship at the Children’s Hospital is an annual three-day conference which focuses on mostly clinical issues. The Part C Summer Institute is another annual conference that draws parents, health care providers, special educators, and service coordinators together to discuss various issues such as cultural competence, family-centered care, IFSP development, service coordination, and providing care in natural environments. An annual video conference on Care Coordination/Service Coordination is broadcast in 7 different sites in Colorado.

The Newborn Hearing Advisory has been set up to advise the Board of Health and the Colorado Legislature about the success of the newborn hearing screening bill which mandates that 85% of the newborns must receive a hearing screening test. The group also oversees three task forces which develop guidelines and standards of care for (1) screening equipment, (2) assessment, and (3) intervention. The advisory works closely with the Marion Down Center for Infant Hearing at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Several HCP state consultant positions are jointly funded with the JFK Partners at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the LEND grant in Colorado. The HCP Social Work, Parent, and Rehabilitation Consultants also serve as faculty at the Health Sciences Center and at the University of Denver.

HCP is working with the Lyons Club, the state Department of Education, the Health Sciences Center, and many public and private health care providers to develop a universal vision screening program. Using a camera called a photo-screener, children under 3 and those older than 3 years who are non-verbal or difficult to test are screened in two pilot sites. The pilot site, one in a county public health department and one in an elementary school, are testing draft standards and protocols developed by the task force.

HCP has funded multi-disciplinary teams (consisting of a nurse, a social worker, a nutritionist, a parent advocate, an audiologist, an early intervention specialist for hearing loss, a speech pathologist, and an occupational or a physical therapist) in each of the thirteen regional HCP offices across the state. These teams work to define the needs in the community, provide consult to the public health nurses in the 63 counties around clinical care and resources, and provide expertise in helping pull together agencies, organizations, and communities in building systems of care.

***STATUTORY/REGULATORY AUTHORITY:***

Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 25-6-101, 102, 103, 201-227 (West 1990)