

IEHP first to get NCQA Full Accreditation for its Health Management Program

SAN BERNARDINO, CA . . . Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) is the first full-service health plan in America to earn a Full Disease Management Accreditation for its Health Management Program from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Full Accreditation for three years is the highest level awarded to organizations that meet or exceed NCQA standards for Disease Management Accreditation.

This is the second NCQA Accreditation in two years for IEHP. IEHP received a Commendable Accreditation for the entire health plan from the NCQA in 2000.

The NCQA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. Many health care industry experts agree that the NCQA is the best external, objective standard for determining and comparing the quality of HMOs.

“NCQA Disease Management Accreditation demonstrates that an organization is well-suited to deliver programs to manage care for the seriously or chronically ill,” according to NCQA’s Executive Vice President Greg Pawlson, M.D. “And it’s a difficult test. It says a lot that an organization is willing to step forward to be reviewed.”

“We are indeed very proud that the IEHP Health Management Program has earned top level accreditation by the NCQA in our first year of operation,” said IEHP Medical Director Dr. Bradley P. Gilbert. “All our participating physicians, clinics and IEHP Team Members share the credit for delivering a first-rate program to help our members with high-risk or chronic conditions.”

“Full Accreditation by the NCQA for our disease management program strengthens our commitment to become one of the best health plans in California in terms of the quality of care IEHP members receive,” stated IEHP Chief Executive Officer Richard Bruno. “I feel strongly that our members deserve nothing less than our best effort.”

The IEHP Health Management Program covers people with asthma, diabetes and high-risk pregnancies.

The IEHP Health Management Program recognizes that many patients need ongoing health care and the effort required for them to effectively manage chronic conditions is significant. The IEHP Health Management Program hopes to focus support offered to patients and practitioners to improve both the process and care outcomes.

The IEHP Health Management Program supports treatment by reminding patients about their treatment plan and helping them to carry it out. It uses evidence-based treatment information as a basis for providing both knowledge to the patient and timely information to the practitioner and for supporting the relationship between patient and practitioner.

IEHP is the local initiative, non-profit health plan created by Riverside and San Bernardino counties to provide access to quality preventative and total health care services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. IEHP is a participating plan in California's Healthy Families Program and the health care provider for Riverside County's Healthy Kids Program.

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