

Health Insurance & CSHCN: News & Views on Health Insurance Trends in Massachusetts

1:00-1:05 p.m.	Welcome & Introductions	<i>Susan Epstein, Chair</i>
1:05-1:15 p.m.	Announcements: Brief Informational Items	<i>All Participants</i>
Information	Membership Dues for the Consortium? The Consortium Steering Committee has formed several work groups to look ahead to ensure the continued success of the Consortium. The group looking at funding and financial support for the Consortium is considering a number of options, and distributed this survey to gather input on one idea: membership dues. <i>If you have not already done so</i>, please take a moment to complete the survey and return it to Alexa Halberg at ahalberg@neserve.org - or print it and mail it to us here.	
1:15-2:00 p.m.	Report from Medical Coverage Decision-Making Work Group Hear the results of case-based interviews with nine health plans in our state (commercial & Medicaid). How do payers define medical necessity? What criteria are applied to determine benefit exceptions or approve experimental procedures? How can the Consortium use this information to increase transparency and understanding of the benefit decision-making process for both families and providers? Q & A: - Where are the opportunities to simplify the process for families for providers? - What's in it for health plans? Action: Should the Consortium develop educational materials for families and providers on this topic?	<i>Nancy Turnbull, Harvard School of Public Health, New England SERVE</i> Panel Respondents: <i>Nancy Chane, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Specialty Care Management Program</i> <i>Lisa Lambert, Parent, Parent Professional Advocacy League</i> <i>Josh Greenberg, Children's Hospital, Office of Child Advocacy</i>
Education	Medical coverage decision-making issues aren't restricted to this side of the pond. Tea, Biscuits, and Health Care Prioritizing is an essay by an American physician who observes the process both in England and here at home. From the journal <i>Health Affairs</i>.	
Action		
2:00-2:45 p.m.	New Trends in Health Insurance Products: Implications for Families and CSHCN Learn about the latest trends in employer health coverage, including "consumer-directed" health plans, and why demand for these health plans is growing. Get both the Employer and the Health Plan Perspective . Q & A: - What will these new products mean for children who are heavy users of specialized care and services? - How can families influence their employers' choices for health coverage?	<i>Nancy Turnbull, Moderator</i> <i>Peter Kilmartin, Mercer Human Resource Consulting</i> <i>Alexandra Schweitzer, Tufts Health Plan</i> <i>Dolores Mitchell, Executive Director, Group Insurance Commission</i>
Education		
2:45-3:00 p.m.	Policy Updates & Announcements	
Information	- Status of Early Intervention programs in Early Education Planning - Proposed Draft Special Education regulations	<i>Ron Benham, MA Dept. of Public Health</i> <i>Lisa Martin, Parent, Special Education Attorney</i>
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Networking	
	Members of the Consortium are invited to use this time for informal networking, Work Group or sub-committee meetings, etc. Take advantage of easy access to colleagues, associates and friends.	