



April 17, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

In today's MLP Update, we include important information on CARES payment eligibility for SSI recipients, important resources for pediatric providers from CHDI, and an advocacy update regarding the MLP's ongoing effort to seek Medicaid expansion for undocumented children and their families in Connecticut.

- **The Medical-Legal Partnership Project (MLP) is Open for Business!**

Please see our attached flyer, and available on our [COVID-19 webpage](#). We are still working with our clinical partners to provide legal assistance and consultations on cases involving the *health-harming legal needs* that effect the state's vulnerable children and families. Please don't hesitate to contact us – we are here to continue to assist clinicians, albeit remotely.

- **SSI Recipients Automatically Eligible for Economic Impact Payments (EIP) under the CARES Act**

Contrary to previous bulletins, the IRS on Wednesday issued instructions that Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients. [According to the IRS](#): “SSI recipients will receive a \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment with no further action needed on their part. The IRS projects the payments for this group will go out no later than early May.” **However – those SSI recipients with children under the age of 17 are required to register online to receive the \$500 per child the IRS will pay as part of the EIP package.** The registration link may be found [here](#).

- **CHDI Webpage Provides Important Resources and Behavioral Health Access Information**

The Connecticut Health Development Institute ([CHDI](#)) has developed an outstanding resource page for pediatric and family medicine clinicians to assist in working with families during the COVID-19 crisis. Of particular note is the *Pediatric Behavioral Health Crisis Referrals and Support Resources During COVID-19* page, which can be accessed [here](#). The page also includes a summary of available behavioral health support options for clinicians during the crisis. (Courtesy CHDI & Office Child Advocate).

- **Ongoing Advocacy – Expand HUSKY Programs to Cover Undocumented Families**

The MLP and physician advocates Marietta Vazquez and Julia Rosenberg (Yale-New Haven Hospital) sent the attached email this morning to state Chief Operating Office Josh Geballe and Office of Policy and Management Secretary Melissa McCaw, along with an updated clinicians letter with 239 signatories requesting that the Governor issue an executive order expanding Medicaid eligibility to undocumented children, youth and their families.

As is always the case, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the MLP team listed below. Thank you again for all your dedication and hard work in this challenging time.

Sincerely,

The MLP Team

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