**SUMMARY**

* The problem: Patients with chronic health problems are not receiving the appropriate care due to financial restraints and not knowing how to coordinate their own care.
* Managed Care Organizations (MCO) “…is a health care delivery system organized to manage cost, utilization and quality” (Medicaid, n.d.).
* The importance of having a MCO is to “help patients learn about treatment options, find clinical trials, and obtain referrals” (common wealth fund)
* In regards to the financial restraints… “the programs also would alert patients to government aid for which they might qualify and help them apply for financial assistance” (common wealth fund).
* The purpose of this bill is to close the gap between patients and MCO.

**Background & Evidence**

* Patient navigation was created after discovering the findings being chronic-related (e.g. diabetes, hypertension, cancer) of the American Cancer Society National Hearings on Cancer in the Poor (Freeman, 2011))
* Patients who live in rural areas face barriers in acquiring care, thus many resort to Medicaid
* In Virginia, patients can enroll for Medicaid openly through Medallion, an MCO.
* Patients have a specified amount of time (roughly 30 days) to pick an MCO and the open enrollment dates are based on the county the patient resides in (Medallion, n.d.).
* Patient’s only means of being notified is through physical mail (Medallion, n.d.))
* If the patient does not respond within the allotted time, the program will automatically enroll them to an MCO without notifying the patient (Medallion, n.d.)
* Patients may face difficulty in switching MCOs due to a lack of communication and county they reside in.

**Patient Navigation Assistance Act**

**H.R.4830 116th Congress**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Patients should choose how they should be contacted. Physical mail can be slow and patients with chronic disabilities may have difficulty retrieving them.
2. Time of enrollment should have one pre-determined period like Medicare instead of depending on the location of the patient’s city/county. It can reduce confusion and improve accuracy in patient insurance enrollment.

References

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