



ACCESS INFORMATION

It's official. We have surpassed the million dollar mark. Since September 1, 1999, Project Access patients have received \$1,042,724.40 worth of donated care by physicians and hospitals, and \$19,700.04 worth of prescriptions filled at cost by a variety of pharmacists. As of mid-February, patient enrollment totals 450.

We are nearly finished with the process of linking Project Access with area clinics. The Center for Health and Wellness began enrolling patients on Monday, February 28, and, by the end of March, the Good Samaritan Clinic will be enrolling patients.

As patient enrollments increase, we must also continue to recruit additional providers. We are working hard to enlist the support of providers of outpatient and inpatient rehabilitative therapies, medical supplies and equipment, laboratory and other diagnostic tests, and home health services. If you refer paying patients to organizations who provide these services, consider approaching them to request their participation in Project Access. This will significantly increase access to a comprehensive system of donated services for Project Access patients.



Anne Nelson
Program Director

It takes all of us working together towards common goals to make great things happen. Thank you for your partnership.

Tips for Physicians

With Project Access less than six months old, many physicians are still getting used to working with a new system for providing care to uninsured patients. In response to questions about how the program works, the following reminders are offered:

- Before a Project Access patient is referred to a specialist, physicians should contact the Project Access office (688-0600). The staff will coordinate the referral. This step ensures the physician accepting the referral participates in Project Access.

"We have great respect for the physician-to-physician relationship and understand that informal referrals are common," said Anne Nelson, program director. "Unfortunately, some patients have been billed for care received from non-participating physicians. By calling our office, we can confirm the status of the physician receiving the referral."

- When a physician cares for a Project Access patient, whether referred by a clinic or the Project Access office, a HCFA should be generated so that the donation can be recorded.

"HCFAs are the key to our ability to evaluate the program, to track its success and, most importantly, to document the amount of care donated," Nelson noted.

Any health care provider who has questions about how Project Access works is asked to call 688-0600.

Board of Directors Appointed To Oversee Program

A board of directors was recently appointed by the Central Plains Regional Health Care Foundation, Inc. to oversee the day-to-day operations of Project Access. This board will report to the corporation members.

Directors who will serve during 2000 include:

- Michael Bates, MD, president
- David Grainger, MD, vice president
- Daniel Caliendo, MD
- Jim Farha, MD
- Pat Hanrahan
United Way of the Plains
- Robert Kenagy, MD
- Sr. Helene Lentz
Via Christi Health System
- Joseph Meek, MD
- Christopher Moeller, MD
- Randy Nevil
Quick Response Marketing, Inc.
- David Nevill
Wesley Medical Center
- Paul Uhlig, MD
emeritus member

Dwight Allen, MSSC executive director, will serve in a similar capacity with the foundation.

“Thank you for providing a program that is able to help low-income persons like myself to obtain medical care. I deeply appreciate your assistance.”

IN THE KNOW

● Efforts are underway to enlist additional health care services, such as laboratories, rehabilitative therapy centers, hospices and home health care agencies, to participate in Project Access. Anyone interested in joining the recruitment activities is encouraged to contact Anne Nelson at Project Access, 688-0600.

THANK YOU

to the following organizations who are new Project Access partners and the individuals who assisted with the process:

NovaCare Physical Rehabilitation

Ken Welk, clinical operations director

Hospice, Inc.

John Carney, executive director

Via Christi Home Health

Harry Funke, president

KU Internal Medicine Residency Clinic

Dr. Garold Minns, director of Patient Care, and Jamie Love, officer manager

Via Christi Residency Clinics

Social workers Lori Fillmore, Glenda Giro and Roxie Newkirk

THANK YOU

Barbara Gibson, director of KDHE Primary Care Division, for helping to identify resources for Project Access staff to better serve non-English speaking patients.

Retirement Doesn't Stop Physician

Undoubtedly there are few members of the medical community who don't know — and respect — Dr. Fred Chang. Although he retired a few years ago from Wichita Surgical Specialists, Dr. Chang can still be found in his office in the graduate education department at KUSM-W and at the United Methodist Health Clinic where he works a few days a week.

When asked about his work at the clinic, Dr. Chang is eager to turn the spotlight on others, praising the work of Kerin Smith, RN, staff nurse. "Kerin is a wonderful nurse who volunteers many hours," Chang said. "She is an asset to the clinic, very understanding with the patients and supportive of Project Access."

"I'm pleased that Project Access is providing UMHC patients with a more extensive referral network," Smith explained.

Dr. Chang was himself an early supporter of Project Access, serving as a member of the Physician Participation Committee chaired by Dr. Chris Moeller.

"This program is an extension of what I have been doing informally for years," Dr. Chang explained. "Throughout my career, I have picked up the phone and called a colleague for a referral for needy

patients, and I have always responded to referral calls myself. With Project Access I don't have to rely on just a few physicians."

"Another advantage," he continued "is that Project Access quantifies and presents the exact number

and dollars of free care physicians provide. It is important that the public becomes more aware of what doctors are doing for the community."

In his role at UMHC, Chang has worked with Project Access since January when the clinic began enrolling patients. "The program is friendly to physicians," Chang commented. "But it is important to limit the amount of bureaucracy."

He remains cautionary about Project Access' impact locally. "It is too soon to tell what it will mean, but I know there is a tremendous need."



Fred Chang, MD and Kerin Smith, RN, visit with a patient at the United Methodist Health Clinic.

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