



CHILDREN'S
Specialty
Care
Coalition
Putting California's Children First

STATE BUDGET ALERT

January 23, 2008

**ISSUE: Budget Item 4260
Proposed 10% Reduction to Medi-Cal and CCS Physician
Reimbursement**

Position: Strongly Oppose

The proposed cut to Medi-Cal and CCS physician reimbursements would have a devastating impact on thousands of California's most vulnerable children and their families.

Because California's physician reimbursements have only increased once in more than 25 years, and state spending per Medi-Cal beneficiary is among the lowest in the nation, pediatric subspecialists are leaving California or choosing to begin practices in states with more favorable practice environments.

Even at current levels, Medi-Cal and CCS reimbursements simply do not cover the cost of providing quality care.

The resulting physician shortages mean that California's sickest children often wait months to see a pediatric specialist.

Current waiting times:

- In Los Angeles, young patients are waiting 3 months for pediatric pulmonary visits and 4 months for pediatric endocrinology visits.
- Other specialists range from 1 to 4 months throughout the state.

Current physician shortages:

- The Central Valley has been unable to recruit a desperately needed pediatric surgeon for three years.
- Sacramento has been trying to recruit a pediatric endocrinologist to treat children with diabetes for two years and a pediatric critical care physician and pediatric surgeon for one year, unsuccessfully.
- Pediatric specialist groups throughout the state are losing doctors and this threatens their ability to treat young patients in a timely manner.

Proposed cuts to Medi-Cal and CCS physician reimbursements would put thousands of sick children at immediate risk and weaken our entire healthcare system.

ACCESS TO WAITING LISTS IS NOT ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

California Association
of Neonatologists

ChildNet Medical Associates
Specialty Medical Group
Central California
Children's Hospital

Children First Medical Group
Children's Hospital and
Research Center at Oakland

Children's Specialists of San Diego
Children's Hospital San Diego

The Children's Center at
Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento

Department of Pediatrics
Mattel Children's Hospital
David Geffen School of Medicine
at UCLA

Department of Pediatrics
Stanford University School
of Medicine

Department of Pediatrics
University of California Davis
Children's Hospital

Department of Pediatrics
California Pacific Medical Center
San Francisco

Department of Pediatrics
University of California Irvine
Medical Center

Department of Pediatrics
University of California
San Diego medical Center

Loma Linda University Children's
Hospital Medical Group

Miller Children's Subspecialty Group

Pediatric Critical Care Medical Group
Los Angeles

Pediatric Subspecialty Faculty
Children's Hospital Orange County

University Children's Medical Group
Children's Hospital Los Angeles

