



VALLEY HEALTH

Quality healthcare in your neighborhood.

Contact Information

Lanie Masilamani, COO
304-525-3334 Ext. 5150
lanie@vhs-wv.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November XX, 2010

VALLEY HEALTH NOW ACCEPTING WEST VIRGINIA CONNECT ENROLLEES ***State program to provide discounted healthcare to West Virginia's working uninsured***

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Valley Health is pleased to announce its selection as a participating provider for West Virginia CONNECT, a state-supported program that provides improved access to primary care for West Virginia's working uninsured. As a selected provider, Valley Health is now actively accepting West Virginia CONNECT enrollees.

Through West Virginia CONNECT, professional fees for routine office visits are waived at any of Valley Health's 13 full-service health center locations in West Virginia. The types of professional services participants can receive under the program include physical and wellness exams, preventive screenings, immunizations, routine gynecologic visits, treatment for minor illnesses and injuries and treatment of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease.

"In today's tough economy, we recognize that many hard working West Virginians forego health insurance and proper treatment in an effort to live within their budget," Steve Shattls, chief executive officer of Valley Health, said. "West Virginia CONNECT, made possible through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, addresses that issue head-on, making primary care more accessible and affordable for this particular audience. We highly encourage those who qualify to apply today."

In order to qualify for coverage under West Virginia CONNECT, an applicant must be a West Virginia resident, actively employed and have been without health insurance for a minimum of six months. Interested parties may enroll by completing an application and submitting proof of income to Valley Health. Applications are currently available at all Valley Health locations in West Virginia.

As a provision of the program, West Virginia CONNECT does require enrollees with household incomes exceeding 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to pay an annual fee of \$30 to participate. Those with household incomes under 200 percent of the FPL are exempt from the annual fee. FPL income guidelines are available by contacting Valley Health.

Program participants will also be financially responsible for any ancillary services not covered by West Virginia CONNECT. Uncovered services include, but are not limited to, dentistry services, mental health services, obstetric care, laboratory services, pharmacy services and X-ray services. Qualifying patients may apply for discounted fees for these types of services under Valley Health's sliding fee program.

Space in the West Virginia CONNECT program is limited, with enrollment available on a first-come, first-served basis to qualifying candidates through May 31, 2011.

Valley Health is an integrated network of primary healthcare centers and public health programs that serves more than 68,000 patients each year. A leader in community-based care since 1975, Valley Health offers primary care services that include family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, dentistry and psychiatry.

For more information about West Virginia CONNECT or how to apply, please call Valley Health at 304-525-3334, extension 5147. For more information about Valley Health or a list of its neighborhood locations, visit www.valleyhealth.org

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Valley Health is an integrated network of 28 primary healthcare centers and public health programs in southwestern West Virginia and southern Ohio that serves more than 68,000 patients each year. The Valley Health medical staff includes doctors, dentists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses and midwives. Valley Health offers services including family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, dentistry, psychiatry, pharmacy services, laboratory services, X-rays and ultrasounds. For more information about Valley Health, contact Lanie Masilamani, chief operating officer, at 304-525-3334 or visit www.valleyhealth.org.