GHPP pays only when a service is not covered by those plans. Persons with managed care insurance plans must seek approval of medical services through their plans.

Do Clients Pay Anything?

Some families pay an annual enrollment fee to GHPP. The amount is based on a sliding fee scale determined by family size and income.

TO APPLY: Write or Telephone

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
Genetically Handicapped Persons Program
P.O. Box 942732
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320
(916) 327-0470
1-800-639-0597

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

S. Kimberly Belshe, Secretary
Health and Human Service Agency

Diana M. Bonta, Director
Department of Health Services

GENETICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS PROGRAM

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

7/00

What Is The Genetically Handicapped Persons Program (GHPP)?

The GHPP is a State funded program which coordinates care and helps pay for medical costs of persons with the following conditions:

- Hemophilia and certain other hereditary bleeding conditions
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassemia
- Huntington's Disease, Fredreich's Ataxia, and Joseph's Disease
- Selected hereditary metabolic disorders including Phenylketonuria (PKU)
- Von Hippel Lindau Disease

What Are The Goals Of The Program?

To help each client achieve the best level of health and functioning possible through:

- early identification and enrollment in the program
- prevention and treatment services from highly skilled comprehensive center teams
- ongoing care in the home community provided by qualified physicians and other health professionals

Who Is Eligible?

Anyone with an eligible GHPP condition who is a resident of California may apply. Those under 21 may be eligible to receive care through the California Children Services Program. All clients **must** complete an application and may be required to apply to Medi-Cal.

What Services are Covered?

Program benefits authorized by GHPP include the following, if medically necessary:

- Special Care Center services, including comprehensive evaluation and development of treatment plan
- Hospital inpatient and outpatient medical services including x-ray, laboratory, and other diagnostic services
- Physician/dental services
- Prescription medications, food supplements, blood products, oxygen, and medical supplies
- Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy
- Psychosocial services and referrals
- Prosthetic and orthopedic appliances, durable medical equipment
- Certain home health agency services

All services, except emergency care, covered by GHPP must be authorized prior to the service being provided.

Who Can Provide These Services?

- GHPP approved Special Care Centers which are teams of medical, nursing, social work, and other health professionals with expertise in the care of GHPP eligible conditions.
- GHPP approved private specialists and community physicians working in cooperation with the approved Special Care Center team.
- GHPP approved hospitals and many other providers.

What Advantages Does The Program Offer Persons Covered By Insurance, Medicare or Medi-Cal?

- GHPP promotes high quality, coordinated medical care through case management services which assure collaboration between the comprehensive Special Care Center team and local physicians.
- GHPP refers clients to appropriate medical specialists and other health care providers in the client's community to provide services recommended by the Center.
- GHPP pays for medical care in case of loss of private health insurance or Medi-Cal due to change in employment or income.
- GHPP often pays for medical services not fully covered by other plans.
- GHPP protects families, who are self-supporting, from undue financial hardship at times of unusual heavy medical expenses. GHPP makes it possible for self-employed and part-time workers without private health insurance coverage to work and continue to receive essential medical care.

Does GHPP Cover The Entire Cost Of Medical Care For All Clients?

No. Some services are not benefits of GHPP. For example, long term care in a facility when patients can no longer be cared for by family members at home and experimental drugs or treatment are not GHPP benefits.

GHPP pays for services at rates set by the State. Health care providers may not get paid the full-billed amount. When GHPP authorizes a service, the authorized provider must accept the GHPP rate as payment in full and cannot bill the client for the balance.

If clients have private health insurance, Medi-Cal, or Medicare, their medical providers must bill those health plans for payment first.