CaCoon is a statewide public health nurse home visiting program providing care coordination for families with children, birth to 21 years, with special health needs. These children and their families often have very complex health and related needs requiring coordination across multiple systems of care. CaCoon nurses assess family needs and provide interventions and care coordination to improve their health and well-being. The goal is to assure these children access to needed health and related services, spanning multiple systems of care, resulting in optimal health and well-being.

CaCoon children have complex needs. About 27% of CaCoon children have multiple chronic medical diagnoses, compared to only 2% of Medicaid children not served by CaCoon. CaCoon diagnoses include cleft palate, developmental delay, Down syndrome, epilepsy, failure to thrive, hearing loss, heart and brain disorders, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and cystic fibrosis, among other rare and complex conditions.

Compared to Medicaid, children and youth that receive CaCoon nurse home visits had significantly higher rates of:*

- Immunizations
  CaCoon annual flu immunization rates were more than twice as high as Medicaid children in 2010 and 2011. For children that turned two years old during the year, the CaCoon up-to-date immunization rate was 28% higher than Medicaid children in 2010 and 12% higher in 2011.

- Annual well-child visits
  The CaCoon annual well child care visit rate was 23% higher than Medicaid children in 2010 and 26% more in 2011.

- Annual dental care visits
  The CaCoon annual dental care visit rate was 21% higher than Medicaid children in 2010 and 2011.

CaCoon Potential Medicaid Cost Savings
Immunizations generate significant economic benefits. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates for every dollar spent on immunizations about six dollars in direct medical costs are saved. The higher CaCoon immunization rate results in considerable Medicaid savings.

*Chi-square significant at .05 or less

Note: A technical report provides detailed description of the research and analysis methods

Information provided by:
Oregon Health Authority
Department of Medical Assistance Program
Immunization Program

Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs
503-494-8303  www.occyshn.org

“Don’t think my son would be here if the CaCoon nurse hadn’t linked me to the services needed to help him.”
– CaCoon Client

At a glance:
CaCoon clients have higher immunization rates, well child visits, primary care visits, and dental care than Medicaid clients not served by CaCoon