



COMMUNITY HEALTH CHOICES UPDATE

What You Need to Know about the Statewide Transition Plan

Below are the most recent updates with the Managed Care transition.

On August 30, 2016, the departments of Human Services (DHS) and Aging announced that the Commonwealth has agreed to move forward and negotiate agreements with three managed care organizations (MCOs) for services that fall under Community HealthChoices (CHC).

Through a request for proposals, DHS has selected three MCOs (insurance carriers) to proceed with negotiations to deliver services in Pennsylvania beginning in 2017. The following MCOs were selected for negotiations on a statewide basis:

- AmeriHealth Caritas
- Pennsylvania Health and Wellness (Centene)
- UPMC for You

The Commonwealth's goals for these MCO's will be to increase the focus on greater coordination between the physical and behavioral health systems, as well as LTSS (waiver services). CHC will:

- Enhance opportunities for community-based services and increase access to services;
- Strengthen health care and Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) delivery systems;
- Allow for new innovations;
- Promote the health, safety, and well-being of enrolled participants; and
- Ensure transparency, accountability, effectiveness, and efficiency of the program.

Persons eligible for CHC are 21 or older who have both Medicare and Medicaid, or who receive long-term services and supports through Medicaid because they need help with everyday activities of daily living. CHC will roll out in three phases.

For more information, visit www.dhs.pa.gov. The departments have created an overview of the program that can be seen here: <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/communityhealthchoices/index.htm>

National Committee for Quality Assurance

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) is an organization in the United States that works to improve health care quality through the administration of evidence-based standards, measures, programs, and accreditation. We at UDS have applied for accreditation with this organization. There are 8 standards that we must meet to obtain this honor and we will be aligning our policies, procedures and practices in accordance with these standards for excellence. We are one of thirty-two organizations who will be among the first in the country to voluntarily be evaluated under the new LTSS program requirements. This includes organizations from across 14 states, 5 health plans and an array of organizations including area agencies on aging, aging and disability resource centers, home and community-based service organizations and others.

COMMON QUESTIONS

1. Who are the Managed Care Providers chosen to cover Pennsylvania?

At this point, AmeriHealth Caritas, PA Health & Wellness (Centene) & UPMC for You will go through price negotiation with the DHS. After pricing is done and the MCOs agree to the price/negotiations with DHS they will become CHC award winners. Further communication will occur with you at that time from each of the selected award winners so each eligible participant can make a selection that makes sense for them.

2. Who will UDS contract with to provide service coordination and other programs to participants?

UDS has met with each of these MCOs and will review the contracts provided by these MCOs to the Commonwealth in an effort to evaluate what makes sense for UDS and the participants we serve. More of these discussions and negotiations will occur after the Commonwealth concludes their rate setting meetings with each of these insurance carriers and they become official award winners. At that time, the MCO award selection process will be final and their proposal to the Commonwealth becomes a public document allowing participants and UDS to review the details of their proposal. Our goal is to provide you with this information in an effort to help you make an informed decision. We will use this newsletter to inform you on the contract decisions we make with the hope of continuing our relationship with you.

3. When is this change effective?

The Southwest Region (14 counties in western PA) transition to Managed Care effective 7/1/17, the Southeast Region (which includes Chester, Montgomery, Bucks, Philadelphia and Delaware Counties) transition effective 1/1/18 and the Northwest, Northeast & Lehigh/Capital Regions (which includes the remaining counties of PA and most of the UDS territory) transition effective 1/1/19.

HEALTHY TIPS

Have swelling in your legs, arms, and extremities? A way to help reduce swelling is by adjusting your diet to consist of a low salt or sodium intake, as sodium can cause bloating or swelling. It also helps to improve mobility in legs due to the decrease in swelling.

October starts another flu season. Now is a great time to vaccinate – to protect yourself before flu viruses begin to circulate, causing illness in your community.

So why is getting the flu shot important?

- Influenza infection (the flu) is a serious infection causing significant illness and can cause death, even in otherwise healthy individuals.
- It helps to avoid hospital admissions and long lasting complications such as pneumonia.
- Non-vaccinated individuals can transmit influenza to vulnerable family members, co-workers and friends.

For faster and more efficient communication, please send your email to us at:

ADVOCATE@udservices.org