



Move to Medicaid Managed Care for Children and Young Adults enrolled in Medicaid in the DD Support or Residential Waiver

By July 1, 2023, children and young adults with developmental disabilities in the Support Waiver or Residential Waiver who are enrolled in Medicaid only must enroll in one of Illinois' five Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) for their medical services. This change does not affect waiver services.

Children who are enrolled in Medicaid and who are also covered by private health insurance, typically from parental employment; children whose own earnings make them "over income" for Medicaid and who are on a spenddown; and children who are also eligible for Medicare with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) or Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) will experience no change. They will not have to enroll in an MCO.

Since many children enrolled the DD Child Support or DD Child Residential Waiver have special health care needs, in addition to their developmental disabilities, and receive care from pediatric specialists at medical centers around/near Illinois, the main concern about this change is whether the child/young adult's medical center and physician/specialists will accept their Medicaid MCO coverage.

- You will need to discuss with each of your child's/young adult's physicians/specialists/medical centers what, if any, of Illinois' five HealthChoice Illinois MCOs they accept prior to July 1, 2023. Illinois MCOs are County Care (Cook County Residents only), Blue Cross Community Health Plans, Molina Healthcare, Aetna Better Health of Illinois, and Meridian Health Plan. See more under "Additional Resources".

- You may be auto-enrolled into an MCO if you take no action within 30 days after receiving notice of the need to choose an MCO. You can change your MCO one time in the first 90 days after your enrollment start date. Go to enrollhfs.illinois.gov to compare MCOs.
- After initial enrollment you can change MCOs annually during your “open enrollment” period, which starts 60 days prior to the Anniversary date your child/young adult was enrolled in their MCO. Keep track of the date of your enrollment in an MCO.
- If your child/young adult’s physician/specialist/medical center takes Medicaid but does not accept your child’s MCO, you can ask the provider to consider entering into a single case agreement with the MCO. The health care provider may or may not agree to do so.
- If your child/young adult’s physician/specialist/medical center does not accept any Illinois MCOs, ask your child’s/young adult’s MCO for a list of **in-network** pediatricians/specialists/medical centers. Call the MCO’s member services line to get the list.
- You should also request a care coordinator from your child/young adult’s MCO if you are not already contacted by a care coordinator. The care coordinator must locate needed specialists, including specialists for children with rare diseases. The Care Coordinator can also help with prior authorizations, answer questions, connect you to non-medical services, and help with transitions of care, if needed.

Additional Resources:

Support Waiver for Children with Developmental Disabilities:

https://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalClients/HCBS/Pages/support_cyadd.aspx

Residential Waiver for Children with Developmental Disabilities:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalClients/HCBS/Pages/cyadd.aspx>

Illinois Pediatric Waivers: Medicaid Waivers in Illinois for Children with Disabilities

Be sure to verify that your insurance is accepted by the provider/hospital each time you call to schedule an appointment.

For help choosing an MCO or if you have questions about the process, contact the Client Enrollment Services (CES) at 1-877-912-8880 (TTY: 1-866-565-8576) or go to: enrollhfs.illinois.gov

You can find examples of enrollment letters and information about each MCO. For information about what extra benefits are offered, go to "Choose" - Compare Plans. Be sure to select the **HealthChoice Illinois Program**.

Call your MCO to learn which hospitals are "in network".