

Maryland's New Health Insurance Marketplace

What You Need To Know
About Getting Health Coverage



Goals Today

- The Importance of Coverage
- What is Maryland Health Connection?
- New coverage options
 - Qualified Health Plans
 - Medicaid Expansion
- Affordability Options and Financial Assistance
 - New premium tax credits
 - Reduced cost- sharing
- In-Person Assistance
- Resources

The Importance of Coverage

Importance of health coverage

Health coverage is important for you and your family

Why it matters

- An unexpected illness or injury can happen to anyone, even to someone who is young and healthy
- Without health coverage, or without enough coverage, an illness or injury can drain your savings
- High medical bills are a leading cause of personal bankruptcy in the U.S.



Health insurance = better access to care

People who DON'T HAVE health coverage are more likely to:

- Skip getting medical care that they need
- Postpone getting care due to cost
- Not fill a prescription due to cost
- Have trouble paying medical bills
- Have a collection agency contact them about medical bills



People who DO have health coverage are more likely to:

- Get preventive care that prevents illness
- Get earlier treatment for illness or disease
- Have better outcomes for health problems, because of early treatment

What is Maryland Health Connection?

What is Maryland Health Connection?

- New marketplace to compare health insurance options and enroll in a plan that best meets your needs, whether Medicaid or a private insurance plan
- Even if you have never been able to afford insurance before, you may qualify for financial assistance or qualify for Medicaid through expanded eligibility guidelines beginning in 2014
- Maryland Health Connection is the only place to receive:
 - New premium tax credits from federal government
 - Cost-sharing reductions
- Health insurance marketplace available to residents of the State of Maryland through the Affordable Care Act

Maryland Health Connection

- You have choices in your health coverage
- Employer-based coverage will continue
- Open Enrollment begins: October 1, 2013
- Coverage Begins: January 1, 2014

Enrollment Process

- One streamlined application for:
 - Qualified Health Plans (private insurance)
 - Medicaid
 - Maryland's Children's Health Program (MCHP)
- Apply: online, by phone, by mail or in-person
- Beginning: October 2013

Simple Process

- After you complete the Streamlined Application (online), Maryland Health Connection will determine your eligibility and present the results. You may qualify for:
 - Medicaid
 - MCHP
 - Financial assistance to pay for monthly insurance costs for private insurance through Maryland Health Connection (paid directly to the insurance company by the federal government)

Coverage Options

What is a Qualified Health Plan?

A Qualified Health Plan is an insurance plan offered by an insurance company in Maryland that:

- Is licensed and in good standing with the State of Maryland
- Covers Essential Health Benefits
- Agrees to charge the same premium rate for plans through Maryland Health Connection as those on the open market (outside Maryland Health Connection)

Essential Health Benefits

Qualified Health Plans cover Essential Health Benefits
which include at least these 10 categories

| | |
|--|---|
| Ambulatory patient services | Prescription drugs |
| Emergency services | Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices |
| Hospitalization | Laboratory services |
| Maternity and newborn care | Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management |
| Mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment | Pediatric services, including oral and vision care |

Medicaid: Changes in 2014

- Medicaid, also known as Medical Assistance, will undergo changes in 2014
- More people will be covered in 2014 under the guidelines
- A new, single application will be used through Maryland Health Connection (online, phone, in-person) to determine eligibility
- Modernized method uses electronic data; reduces paper documentation
- A call center will be available to answer questions beginning in the Fall of 2013
- Reduces time and simplifies renewal process

Medicaid: Changes in 2014

- Income eligibility will be expanded to \$15,856 (for a single person) beginning January 1, 2014

| Household Size | Income Eligibility for Medicaid |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Less than \$15,856 |
| 2 | Less than \$21,404 |
| 3 | Less than \$26,951 |
| 4 | Less than \$32,499 |

- Adults currently enrolled in the Primary Adult Care (PAC) program in Maryland will automatically be enrolled in full Medicaid benefits January 1, 2014
- Youths who have aged out of foster care will be eligible for Medicaid up to age 26.

Medicaid: What is NOT Changing in 2014

- No changes to the required Medicaid benefit package
- Children in families with incomes below 300% FPL will still qualify for Maryland Children's Health program (MCHP). MCHP Premium will still charge families a premium if they are between 200% and 300% FPL
- Pregnant women with incomes up to 250% FPL will continue to be covered under Medicaid
- New income and household composition rules will not apply to:
 - The elderly
 - People applying for long term care
 - People who qualify for assistance with Medicare premiums and cost-sharing
 - Foster care youths

Affordability Options & Financial Assistance

Financial Assistance to Make Insurance Affordable

- Financial help is available for working families
- Even if you have never been able to afford insurance before, you may qualify for assistance to help reduce the cost of your premium
- The streamlined application process makes it easy to determine eligibility in one place

What is a Premium Tax Credit?

- With most tax credits, you have to wait until you file your tax returns. The new health care tax credit is DIFFERENT. It is credited immediately to your insurance premium and paid by the federal government to the insurance company so you pay less each month
- Your eligibility will be determined immediately by Maryland Health Connection during application process
- You can accept all, or part, of tax credit

Premium Tax Credits

- Eligibility based on
 - Household income and family size for the year
 - Income between \$23,550 and \$94,200 for a family of 4 (2013) or 100-400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Tax credit amount depends on income as a percentage of the FPL
 - Based on a sliding scale
 - Limits premium payments as a percent of income

What is a Cost-Sharing Reduction?

- Additional financial assistance to lower the cost of health coverage
- For those with incomes at or below 250% of the FPL (\$58,875 per year for a family of 4 in 2013)
- Must be receiving the advance tax credit
- Lowers your out of pocket costs (ex. Co-pays)

Help When You Need It

Help When You Need It

There will be many options available to help you in the coming months:

- Website: marylandhealthconnection.gov
- Call Center: opening in August
 - Translation services for people who speak languages other than English
 - TTY for the hearing impaired
 - Customer Service, applications and enrollment
- Assistance at Local Health Departments and Departments of Social Services: applications and enrollment
- Navigators and Assisters
 - In-person assistance with applications and enrollment
 - Beginning in October
 - Available throughout the state
- Insurance Agents
 - Authorized to sell insurance plans
 - Help you choose and select a plan that best meets your needs

Insurance Terms to Know

Terms you will want to know in the coming months to help make the decision easier:

| TYPE OF COST-SHARING | WHAT IT IS |
|-----------------------|--|
| Premium | The monthly fee you will pay the insurance company for your insurance |
| Co-payment | Fixed amount you pay for each routine health care service. Example: \$25 for an office visit or \$10 for a prescription refill |
| Deductible | How much you must pay for care before your plan starts to pay |
| Co-insurance | Percentage of each health care service that you pay and your plan pays the rest. Example: You pay 20%; the plan pays 80% |
| Out-of-pocket maximum | Maximum amount you will pay per year, based on co-pays, deductibles and co-insurance |

Resources

- Maryland Health Connection
 - www.marylandhealthconnection.gov
- Governor's Office of Health Care Reform
 - www.healthreform.Maryland.gov
- Maryland Insurance Administration
 - www.mdinsurance.state.md.us
- Health Education & Advocacy Unit of the Attorney General's Office
 - www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer/HEAU.htm
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 - www.healthcare.gov

Help with health insurance problems

Maryland Consumer Assistance Program

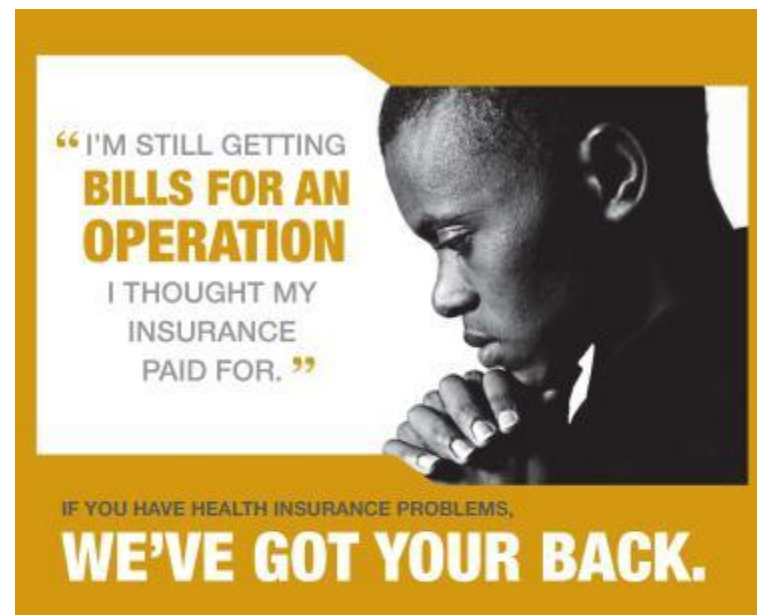
Office of the Attorney General

Health Education & Advocacy Unit

Free help to represent you:

- “Denials of coverage” – when your insurance company won’t pay for a medical procedure or prescription
- Billing disputes with doctors, hospitals, insurance companies & other providers
- Refunds for faulty medical equipment

800-817-MDCares or MarylandCares.org



“I'M STILL GETTING
**BILLS FOR AN
OPERATION**
I THOUGHT MY
INSURANCE
PAID FOR.”

IF YOU HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE PROBLEMS,
WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK.

Got a problem with your medical bills or health insurance company? Then you need to call the Maryland Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit (HEAU). We go to bat for you when health insurance problems arise. Our **free** services include:

- ▶ Examining your health insurance policy and mediating denials of coverage.
- ▶ Mediating billing disputes on your behalf.
- ▶ Mediating problems with faulty medical equipment.
- ▶ Even helping you find the right insurance plan.

If you're feeling confused or overwhelmed, don't give up. Call us at **800-817-MDCares** or visit us online at **MarylandCares.org** to learn more.

HEAU health education +
advocacy unit
Douglas F. Gansler, Attorney General

Health insurance resources

Maryland Insurance Administration

Publications about health insurance:

- Consumer Guide to Health Insurance
- Tips on Shopping for Health Insurance
- Your Rights When Your Health Insurer Will Not Pay For Services
- A Consumer Guide to Prescription Drug Plans

410-468-2000 or 800-492-6116

800-735-2258 TTY

mdinsurance.state.md.us

