

HealthChoices Expansion

May 1, 2015

On April 27, Pennsylvania took a major step forward in completing a traditional Medicaid expansion. The Department of Human Services (DHS) successfully moved 121,234 individuals from the previous *Healthy PA* plan to the comprehensive Adult benefit package delivered through the traditional HealthChoices Medicaid managed care program. This transition provides greater health care coverage in a simpler and streamlined manner to Pennsylvanians who are most in need.

HealthChoices Expansion: Phase One Implementation

- DHS discontinued the Interim Healthy and Healthy Plus benefit plans and moved all individuals in these plans to the single Adult benefit package.
- DHS transferred individuals enrolled in the *Healthy PA* Private Coverage Option (PCO) into the HealthChoices Adult benefit package. This group includes PCO recipients enrolled in Medicaid as of Dec. 2014.
- The “front door” to the PCO is closed, as of April 27, 2015. DHS will place all newly eligible adults in Medicaid and enroll these individuals in HealthChoices instead of the PCO.

As of April 30, Pennsylvania enrolled 10,536 newly covered individuals into HealthChoices. 133,304 individuals remain enrolled in the PCO, and will gradually transition to HealthChoices over the next few months. The transition will be complete and their new coverage in the HealthChoices plan will begin by September 1.



“Thank you to all the DHS staff that worked some very long hours to implement this phase of the Medicaid expansion,” said Acting DHS Secretary Ted Dallas. “Their teamwork is a great example of what the Governor means when he says that his Administration will be a government that works.”

Impact: Support from the Community

Pennsylvanians support Governor Wolf’s commitment to Medicaid expansion and improving the overall health and security of individuals and families in the Commonwealth.

"By acting to move Pennsylvanians into one benefit package, eliminating the invasive health screening questionnaire, and simplifying the process, Governor Wolf is acting in the best interests of patients and taxpayers. Our view, which is shared by a majority of voters, is that traditional Medicaid expansion has always been the best route to creating jobs, covering families and growing our economy." - Antoinette Kraus, director of the Pennsylvania Health Access Network

"HealthChoices will ensure that everyone will get an equal amount of benefits and have their benefits restored." - Leslie Bachurski, director of consumer navigation for the Consumer Health Coalition

"Withdrawing *Healthy PA* for complete Medicaid expansion shows Gov. Wolf's commitment to the well-being of hundreds of thousands of uninsured Pennsylvanians and provides a stepping stone for getting the state budget back on track." - Rep. Peter Schweyer

“Overall, Gov. Wolf is also improving access to care, which improves a patient’s situation. We are moving from a complex and fragmented system to one that is simple.” - Karen Rizzo, M.D., president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

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