

## **State Expands Bayou Health – Allows Additional Participants to Enroll If They Choose**

Beginning on July 1st, the state will expand eligibility for Bayou Health to allow people on the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), Community Choices Waiver (CCW), Supports Waiver, and Children’s Choice Waiver, to enroll in Bayou Health if they choose. Recipients who have both Medicare and Medicaid cannot enroll.

Bayou Health is the state’s managed care program for Medicaid recipients. Five private companies contract with the state to manage the acute health needs of individuals who are enrolled. Some of these health plans have a different network of doctors, hospitals, and other providers than traditional Medicaid.

All these newly eligible individuals will receive a light green letter from the state, letting them know that they can now enroll in Bayou Health.

It’s very important that individuals and their families look closely at the potential benefits and risks of enrolling in Bayou Health before making this decision.

Benefits may include access to:

- Additional primary care doctor visits. The state’s legacy Medicaid program caps doctor visits at 12 per year.
- Incentives for successfully meeting certain outcomes
- A different set of medical providers under three of the plans (Amerigroup, AmeriHealth Caritas, Louisiana Health Connections).

However there are also significant risks in moving to managed care. Some potential issues include:

- Access to your current doctors and other healthcare providers. Not all doctors and healthcare providers are enrolled in all the managed care plans. If you want to keep your doctors, it’s important to confirm that they are all enrolled in the plan you choose.
  - For three plans (Amerigroup, AmeriHealth Caritas, Louisiana Health Connections) you should check that all your doctors are enrolled.
  - For two plans (Community Health Solutions and United Healthcare Community Plan), you only need to check that your primary care physician is enrolled. But DHH may move all Community Health Solutions participants into Louisiana Health Connections.

See the chart below for more information on waiver services verses those covered by Bayou Health.

- Access to prescription medications. Three of the Bayou Health plans work off a different list of prescription drugs than Medicaid (Amerigroup,

AmeriHealth Caritas, Louisiana Health Connections). And Community Health Solutions soon may. Each plan covers different drugs and has different prior authorization and step therapy procedures. It's important to check that you can access needed medications on the new plan.

- LA Healthcare Connections Formulary:  
<http://www.louisianahealthconnect.com/for-members/pharmacy-services>
  - Amerihealth Caritas Formulary:  
<http://www.amerhealthcaritasla.com/pharmacy/index.aspx>
  - Amerigroup Formulary:  
<https://www.myamerigroup.com/LA/Pages/medicaid.aspx>
  - Formulary for the other two plans and legacy Medicaid:  
[http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/forms/rxpa/PDL\\_and\\_NPDL%201-1-14.pdf](http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/forms/rxpa/PDL_and_NPDL%201-1-14.pdf)
- Access to services. The managed care company will be determining the services, amounts, and duration of services to be received. The Advocacy Center has assisted a number of individuals who've encountered problems in getting needed services approved by plans in a timely manner or whose services have been reduced significantly.
  - Continuity of services. For enrollees in Community Health Solutions, LA Medicaid recently announced that the Community Health Solutions contract will be ending at an unspecified future date.

The state has indicated that waiver participants will be able to return to legacy Medicaid at will. This means that if you encounter problems with a Bayou Health plan, you can request to return to traditional Medicaid whenever you want. However, you should keep in mind that the change will not go into effect until the 1st of the following month and you may be required to resubmit requests or prescriptions to the new plan.

Visit

[http://advocacyla.org/tl\\_files/files/Publications/HCBS%20Welcome%20Letter%20\(final\).pdf](http://advocacyla.org/tl_files/files/Publications/HCBS%20Welcome%20Letter%20(final).pdf) to view the letter that DHH is distributing to participants.

If you encounter problems accessing services under Bayou Health, contact the Advocacy Center.

*Note: The state has indicated that Chisholm class members (individuals aged 3-21 on the NOW waiting list) will be offered the opportunity to enroll in Bayou Health at some future time. Stay tuned for more information from the Advocacy Center.*

Bayou Health will not take away any of your current Medicaid benefits. It may add some benefits like additional doctor visits. Bayou Health will not change how you get your waiver services

Services That Will Be Managed by Bayou Health Companies for Waiver Recipients Who Enroll in Bayou Health	Waiver Services* (These will continue to be managed by the Department of Health and Hospitals for all Waiver Participants.)	Services that May Be Covered By Bayou Health or the Waiver**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physician Services (Doctor visits)</li> <li>• Hospital Services including inpatient, outpatient and emergency room</li> <li>• Visits to Urgent Care Clinics</li> <li>• Laboratory tests and radiological services</li> <li>• Prescriptions/Pharmacy Services</li> <li>• Home Health</li> <li>• Hospice</li> <li>• Medical transportation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Assistance Services</li> <li>• Support Coordination</li> <li>• Employment Supports</li> <li>• Respite, including respite for caregivers</li> <li>• Adult Day Healthcare</li> <li>• Dental Services</li> <li>• Permanent Supportive Housing services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional services like Physical, Speech or Occupational Therapy</li> <li>• Dietician Services</li> <li>• Home Nursing Services</li> <li>• Assistive Devices and Medical Supplies</li> <li>• Durable Medical Equipment like Wheelchairs and Leg Braces</li> </ul>

\* Not all of these services are available through every waiver. However, if this service is available, it will not be managed by the Bayou Health company.

\*\* If you are having trouble getting one of these or another health service not listed, it is important that you or your service coordinator ask both the Bayou Health company and Waiver office to provide it.