

BAYOU HEALTH to Include Waiver Participants

The Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) announced that on July 1, 2012, some waiver recipients will change from regular Medicaid to a new program called BAYOU HEALTH for coordination of their medical care services (e.g. doctor visits, X-rays, lab work, hospital stays, etc.). This change **WILL NOT** in any way affect the other services that participants receive through the waiver. Individual and Family Support (IFS) services and other waiver-specific services will be separate from BAYOU HEALTH, and will be paid and offered just as they are today.

DHH is making this change based on feedback from waiver recipients -- many indicated they wanted the benefit of being in a network that can provide increased access to and coordination of primary and specialty care.

Eligible waiver recipients* age 19 and older will be mandatory BAYOU HEALTH members as of July 1st.

Recipients younger than 19 are voluntary participants and the parent/guardian can decide if it's better for the child to be a member of BAYOU HEALTH or remain on Medicaid for their medical services. But the parent may find a Plan that meets their child's needs better than regular Medicaid. For example, some Plans offer rewards for getting children's checkups and for health education programs. **Parents who want their child to stay in regular Medicaid should call 1-855-BAYOU-4U (1-855-229-6848).**

Eligible waiver recipients* will soon receive letters in the mail describing exactly how to sign up for BAYOU HEALTH and choose a plan. The process to choose a plan is easy, but participants must choose by **June 26, 2012**. A Health Plan is a group of doctors and hospitals that work together to provide health services. Waiver recipients can choose which one of the five Health Plans is best for them and their family. It is very important to choose a plan by June 26, 2012. For those who don't choose a plan, one will be chosen for them. **For more information about this change or about BAYOU HEALTH, call 1-855-BAYOU-4U (1-855-229-6848) or [click here](#).**

*Not all waiver recipients will be eligible for Bayou Health. Waiver recipients who will continue to be excluded from Bayou Health are those who: also receive Medicare; are enrolled in LaHIPP; or are also in the PACE program.

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