



September 17, 2014

Waiver Recipients Now Eligible for Bayou Health

On July 1st the state expanded 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 if they choose. Recipients who have both Medicare and Medicaid cannot enroll.

What is Bayou Health and how does it work?

Bayou Health is Louisiana's Medicaid health services program for primary and acute health care. It is different from traditional Medicaid in that health plans are managed by private companies. Bayou Health enrollees choose one of five health plans to receive services:

- Amerigroup
- Community Health
- AmeriHealth
- Louisiana Healthcare Connections
- UnitedHealthcare

Those who choose to enroll in Bayou Health will not lose their Medicaid benefits. Furthermore, enrolling in Bayou Health will not change waiver services.

What are some of the benefits of enrolling in Bayou Health?

- Additional health services such as doctor visits. The traditional Medicaid program caps doctor visits for adults at 12 per year.
- Rewards for successfully meeting certain outcomes such as getting regular checkups

What are some of the risks of enrolling in Bayou Health?

- Doctors, hospitals and other providers in Bayou Health may be different from those in traditional Medicaid. If you want to keep your doctors, it's important to *first* confirm that they are all enrolled in the plan you want to join.
- Each health plan covers different prescription drugs and has different prior authorization procedures. Contact Bayou Health to verify drug coverage and prior authorization procedures for the plan you want to join.

It's important to note that at any time after joining Bayou Health, waiver recipients can return to traditional Medicaid if they are not satisfied with their new plan.

Eligible individuals should have received a packet of information from Bayou Health including this [letter](#). Individuals are encouraged to thoroughly read the information provided and contact Bayou Health with any questions or concerns.