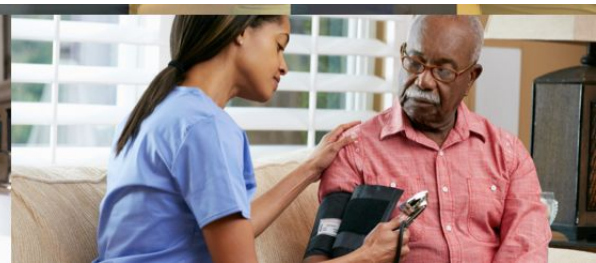




2023 Medicaid §1115 HealthChoice Waiver Amendment Public Hearing

Office of Innovation, Research and Development

September 28, 2023



Agenda

- Welcome
- HealthChoice Overview
- §1115 Waiver Amendment
- Public Comment

Housekeeping

- Please join the meeting audio via phone and enter your audio PIN, which will enable you to speak during public comment.
- Lines will be muted during the presentations; please also self-mute.
- Please indicate your name, title, organization, and email in the chat.
 - Please indicate if you will be submitting written comments or present verbal comments/questions during today's webinar.
- Send questions you have through the question function; you may also utilize this function to sign up for public comment.
- Additional comments, letters, and questions can be submitted via email to mdh.healthchoicerenewal@maryland.gov.

HealthChoice Overview

History of HealthChoice

- HealthChoice, first implemented in 1997 under the authority of §1115 of the Social Security Act, is Maryland's statewide mandatory managed care program for Medicaid enrollees.
- The HealthChoice §1115 Demonstration Waiver was last renewed in 2021; the current waiver term extends for five years (calendar years 2022-2026).
- The HealthChoice program is a mature demonstration that has been proven to increase access to quality health care and reduce overall health care spending.

History of HealthChoice

- In December 2021, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Maryland's application for a seventh extension of the HealthChoice demonstration.
- MDH submitted a previous waiver amendment application in June 2022, to phase out the Adult Dental Pilot and Alternative Destination Pilot, due to legislative changes.
- The current waiver amendment application will be submitted to CMS in November for approval by and implementation on May 1, 2024.

COVID-19 Impact

- Could not disenroll members from Medicaid as a result of the Public Health Emergency, creating a significant impact on eligibility numbers compared to last year.
- Expansion of services delivered via telehealth, including audio-only telehealth visits.
- Waived enforcement of monthly premium payments for the Maryland Children's Health Program Premium and Employed Individuals with Disabilities, and introduced other flexibilities surrounding the delivery of long-term services and supports.
- Relaxed provider enrollment and registration requirements and collaborated with the MCOs to establish a global risk corridor as a fiscal safeguard.

Current Enrollment

As of September 2023...

- There were 1,531,407 individuals enrolled in HealthChoice, representing 86 percent of total Maryland Medicaid enrollment.
- 463,282 adults were enrolled through the ACA Medicaid expansion.

MCO Market Share

Nine managed care organizations (MCOs) participate in the HealthChoice program. Below is the MCO market share as of September 2023:

- Aetna Better Health (4.0 percent)
- CareFirst Community Health Plan Maryland (6.0 percent)
- Jai Medical Systems (2.0 percent)
- Kaiser Permanente (8.0 percent)
- Maryland Physicians Care (16.5 percent)
- MedStar Family Choice (7.1 percent)
- Priority Partners (23.4 percent)
- United Healthcare (11.4 percent)
- Wellpoint (21.6 percent)

§1115 Waiver Amendment

§1115 Waiver Amendment Initiatives

New initiatives:

- Express Lane Eligibility for adults
- Four Walls Requirement Waiver

§1115 Waiver Amendment Initiatives

Express Lane Eligibility (ELE)

- The Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) authorized states to establish ELE to efficiently enroll or renew eligible children in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- During unwinding of the continuous eligibility provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), Maryland received CMS approval to temporarily renew Medicaid eligibility for individuals who are also receiving benefits under SNAP, including both children and adults.
- This temporary authority will remain in effect until April 30, 2024.

§1115 Waiver Amendment Initiatives

Express Lane Eligibility (ELE)

- (SB) 26 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Workgroup on Low-Income Utility Assistance* – (Chapter 282), requires Maryland Medicaid to establish an ELE program for redeterminations of individuals with SNAP benefits in Medicaid and the Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP), effective January 1, 2025.
- This §1115 Waiver amendment is requesting authority to adopt ELE redeterminations of adults with SNAP benefits, effective May 1, 2024.
 - Adults aged 19 to 64 whose SNAP verified income is at or below 138% FPL
- Additionally, Medicaid will submit a State Plan Amendment to authorize ELE redeterminations for children.

§1115 Waiver Amendment Initiatives

Four Walls Requirement

- On August 31, 2020, CMS approved additional flexibilities to Maryland's waiver under section 1135 which granted a temporary waiver of 42 C.F.R. § 440.90 requiring that either the practitioner or patient be physically located within the clinic when billing Maryland Medicaid for services.
- The section 1135 waiver permits services provided via telehealth from clinic practitioners' homes (or another location) to be considered to be provided at the clinic for purposes of 42 C.F.R. § 440.90(a).
- This section 1115 Waiver amendment is requesting to continue the State's section 1135 waiver of the Four Walls Requirement to allow clinics to bill telehealth services at the standard rates.

Public Notice

The following online public hearings will discuss the content of the waiver renewal and solicit feedback and input from stakeholders:

- First Public Hearing: 9/12/23, 3:00-4:00 pm
- Second Public Hearing: 9/28/23, 1:00-3:00 pm
 - Combined with the September MMAC Meeting

The full draft of the application became available for public comment on 9/1/23.

General Information

- The 1115 Waiver Amendment draft is available here:
 - On the [main HealthChoice page](#)
 - Directly in [pdf form](#)
 - And with [a summary document](#)
- Hard copies may be obtained by calling (410) 767-5208.
- Interested parties may send written comments concerning the waiver amendment to mdh.healthchoicerenewal@maryland.gov.
- The Department is accepting comments from Friday, Sept. 1st to Monday, Oct. 2nd.

Questions and Public Comments
