

Maryland Medicaid Medical Day Care Services Waiver Program

Introduction

Medical day care (MDC) is a service that provides community eligible Medicaid participants who meet nursing facility level of care criteria with a community-based alternative to receiving care in an institutional setting. MDC services seek to maximize optimal health functioning and independence by serving as an alternative or delay to institutional care, while offering health support services, respite/relief for families and/or caregivers, and rehabilitation or re-training of impaired functions.

Maryland Medicaid provides MDC services to about 6000 recipients per year. Currently, MDC is offered as a State Plan service. This means that an adult over 16 who is Medicaid eligible and meets the nursing facility level of care criteria can access MDC services as needed. Therefore, Medicaid recipients who use MDC services can be community eligible for Medicaid, or they can be in one of several Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs. About 3800 of the recipients currently receiving MDC services are not enrolled in a HCBS waiver program.

The Medical Day Care Services Waiver

Maryland Medicaid will be transitioning MDC services into a HCBS waiver program that will start July 1, 2008. This single-service waiver program will serve individuals aged 16 or older in a manner that allows connections to family and community to be maintained. Each waiver participant will have an individualized plan

of care (POC) that is designed to support their health and safety in the community.

Eligibility

Individuals who meet the level of care criteria and would like to receive MDC services can enroll in the MDC Services Waiver. Recipients who currently receive MDC services and are not in a HCBS waiver program will be seamlessly transitioned into the new MDC Services Waiver program. This waiver will have enough slots to serve 4800 people per year. Wavier participants will be eligible for Medicaid State Plan services.

MDC services will also be provided to participants in other long-term care waivers who currently receive MDC as a State Plan service. The *Older Adults, Living At Home, Traumatic Brain Injury, Model, Community Pathways*, and *New Directions* Waivers have been modified to include MDC as a waiver service and participants' plans of care will be modified to include MDC as appropriate.

Next Steps

New regulations for the MDC waiver will be completed and published shortly. Specific information will be provided about the application process. Services for individuals currently receiving medical day care will continue uninterrupted. Medical day care providers will not need to re-enroll as waiver providers. More information on specific changes will be made available as necessary to affected parties.