

## **BENEFICIARY NOTICE, WINTER 2014**

**THIS NOTICE IS BEING SENT TO ALL MEDICAID AND NC HEALTH CHOICE (NCHC) BENEFICIARIES SO THAT EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND CHANGES.**

### **Important Information For Medicaid beneficiaries Under Age 21**

This applies to all services mentioned in this notice. Children under age 21 who have Medicaid are entitled to medically necessary screening, diagnostic and treatment services that are needed to “correct or ameliorate defects and physical and mental illnesses and conditions” under the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. EPSDT is important for the reasons stated below.

- Beneficiaries under 21 years of age may be eligible for all Medicaid services listed in the Social Security Act § 1905(a) even if the service is not covered by the state Medicaid plan.
- Some of the restrictions (location of service, numerical limits, and other specific coverage criteria) listed in medical coverage policies may not apply to beneficiaries under 21 years of age.

For more information about EPSDT, visit: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/epsdt>. EPSDT does not apply to children who have NC Health Choice.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES**

This notice is to let you know about important information and changes that are taking place in Medicaid and NCHC.

### **PHARMACY CHANGES TO THE NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAID AND HEALTH CHOICE PREFERRED DRUG LIST (PDL)**

Yearly changes to the North Carolina Medicaid and NC Health Choice PDL are coming soon. The changes will be looked at and approved at the yearly public PDL panel meeting and put in place shortly after. Please refer to the following website for more information: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/pharmacy/pdl.htm>.

### **ANNUAL VISIT LIMITS**

Adults may have up to 22 medically necessary visits per year (July to June) with any MD, NP, PA, Nurse Midwife, Health Dept, Rural Health Clinic (RHC) and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Additional visits for mandatory services or a chronic medical condition must be approved prior to the visits. Sometime on or after March 1, 2014, your doctor must receive prior approval for any visits past your 10<sup>th</sup> visit, unless you have a chronic condition. In addition, after March 1, these providers will be divided into 3 groups, each with separate limits: 1) RHC & FQHC, 2) Health Departments, (3) MD, NP, PA, & Nurse Midwife. Before starting this new prior approval requirement, DMA will publish the list of exempted conditions on the website. More information is available at: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/provider/AnnualVisitLimit.htm>.

### **MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON (MFP)**

Do you or a loved one live in a nursing home and want to go home or to your community? The Money Follows the Person Program may be able to help! For more information call 1-855-761-9030 or visit <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/moneyfollows/>.

### **ATTENTION MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES OVER THE AGE OF 55**

The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly known as PACE provides multiple services to keep frail individuals age 55 and over living safely in their communities. This program provides: primary doctor care, nursing care, social services, home health care, specialized therapies, recreational therapy, nutritional planning, transportation and adult day health services.

To get services you must live in a PACE approved services area; have needs at an institutional level of care and be able to live safely in your community. There are 10 PACE centers opened to serve you. Visit the website to find a PACE organization near your home: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/services/pace.htm>

**ATTENTION COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR DISABLED ADULTS BENEFICIARIES:**

The Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAP/DA) §1915 (c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver is for **adults with disabilities 18 years of age and older**. It waives some of the NC Medicaid rules to allow you to live safely in your home and community.

There are two options under the CAP/DA program you can choose from:

- 1) Traditional; and 2) Self-directed.

Changes to this program were effective on October 1, 2013. Please click on the below link to see a comparison chart of the 2008 and the 2013 CAP/DA program: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/services/capda.htm>.

**THE “BE SMART” FAMILY PLANNING WAIVER (FPW) PROGRAM:**

The “Be Smart” Family Planning Program covers basic family planning services and supplies for women ages 19-55 and men ages 19-60. The following services are covered:

- One annual exam or physical, up to six family planning visits each year, birth control services and supplies, testing/treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STI/STD), testing for HIV/AIDS and sterilizations.

The program will **not** cover:

- Emergency room visits, ambulance, inpatient hospital services, care for health problems that are not family planning services (such as dental or eye services), abortions, HIV/AIDS treatment, cancer treatment, or high blood pressure.
- You will not have co-pays for family planning services covered under the “Be Smart” program. More information is available at: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/services/familyplanning.htm>

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAID AND NC HEALTH CHOICE FOR CHILDREN**

This notice is to let you know about important information and changes that taking place in Medicaid and NC Health Choice.

**PARENTS/CAREGIVERS: IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DENTAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN**

The American Dental Association, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, and the American Academy of Pediatrics all recommend that children have their first dental visit before age 1. Regular dental check-ups for children (including infants and toddlers with baby teeth) every six (6) months are good for your child and his or her overall health. Untreated oral disease can affect children in many ways beyond pain and infection, causing difficulty sleeping, eating, poor concentration and absences from school. Dental sealants can stop 90% of all cavities in permanent teeth. Studies show that more than 90% of all cavities in permanent teeth begin in the grooves of the chewing surfaces of first, second molars (back teeth) and grooves that remain sealed will not get a cavity. To find a dentist for your child's dental care, go to the NC Medicaid Dental Provider website at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/dental/dentalprov.htm>

**NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES (HIPAA)**

On September 20, 2013, the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) made some changes to its Notice of Privacy Practices (NPP). Some of the changes are about requirements for DMA to protect your information, inform you of our legal duties and privacy practices, and notify you if there is a breach of your health information. The NPP also gives new information about your right to restrict sending out your information in certain situations, and the requirements that you agree before we send out counseling notes, sell information about you, or use your information for marketing purposes. The NPP is on the main page of the DMA's website, <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/>. You can also get a copy of this notice from your caseworker.

**FREE RADON TEST KITS AVAILABLE**

Living in a home with radon gas can cause lung cancer. Radon does not have a smell and is invisible, and the only way to know if it is in your home is to test for it. The N.C. Radon Program helps families with newborn children by giving them free radon test kits. To test your home, send the following information to the address provided: Parent's name; Address; Phone number; county where you live; month & year child was born. Mail to: N.C. Radon Program; c/o NC DHHS Newsletter Promotion; 1645 MSC; Raleigh, NC 27699-1645. The results of your test will be mailed to you for free. Visit [www.ncradon.org](http://www.ncradon.org) for more information.

**Who to Contact With Questions about Information in This Notice:** For questions or concerns please contact the DHHS Customer Service Center at 1-800-662-7030 (English/Spanish) or 1-877-452-2514 (this is a TTY number and only those with TTY equipment can talk to a person when this number is dialed). The DHHS Customer Service Center is available to assist you Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.