BWICA: NYS Medicaid Update

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ABOUT NYLAG

New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) uses the power of the law to help New Yorkers experiencing poverty or in crisis combat economic, racial, and social injustice. We address emerging and urgent needs with comprehensive, free civil legal services, financial empowerment, impact litigation, policy advocacy, and community partnerships. We aim to disrupt systemic racism by serving clients, whose legal and financial crises are often rooted in racial inequality.



About the Evelyn Frank Legal Resources Program

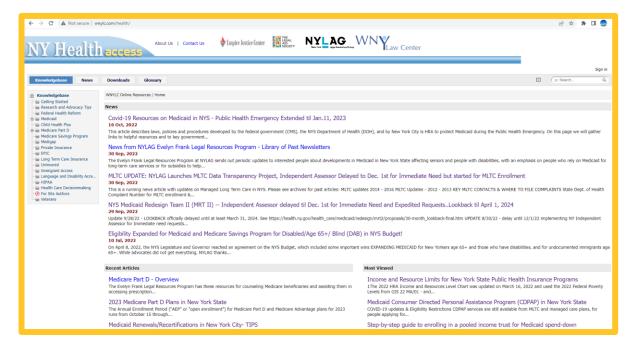
Focuses on fighting for seniors and people with disabilities, ensuring that they have access to health care and home care services they need to age safely in their home and communities. Services include:

- Counseling client on Medicaid, Medicare and home care eligibility and services
- Training legal, social services and health care professionals about changes in Health Care programs and how to best serve the health and long-term care needs of seniors
- Representing clients in denials and reduction of Medicaid,
 Medicare Savings Program and Medicaid Home Care
- Assisting clients with accessing Medicaid home care through Managed Long Term Care plans.



EFLRP Services (continued)

Educating the public through the website <u>www.nyhealthaccess.org</u>
 or http://health.wnylc.com/health/



- Policy Updates
- Consumer Materials
- Expansive resources on coverage criteria and eligibility



	ISSUE	Important dates			
1.	Resumption of Medicaid Renewals End of the moratorium on closing Medicaid cases during the Covid Emergency a/k/a unwind	Moratorium ends July 1, 2023 and renewals started in spring 2023			
2.	New Income & Resource Limits	Started January 1, 2023			
	Independent Assessor for Personal Care services (PCS) & Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPAP) & MLTC enrollment	Phased in starting May 16, 2022, and more phased in Dec. 1, 2022.			
4.	Eligibility Expansion	Various dates, 65+ undocumented, 1 year postpartum			
	POSTPONED TIL AT LEAST APRIL 2024				
1.	30-Month LOOKBACK for MLTC enrollment and new applicants for PCS and CDPAP	DELAYED: 4/1/2024 at the earliest due to Maintenance of Effort requirements under American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); could be later.			
2.	New minimum 3 ADLs required for eligibility for MLTC, PCS & CDPAP (2 ADLS if dementia)	http://www.wnylc.com/health/news/85/			

MEDICAID "UNWIND" OF CONTINUOUS COVERAGE

Resumption of Medicaid Renewals Paused since March 2020 & end of application easements



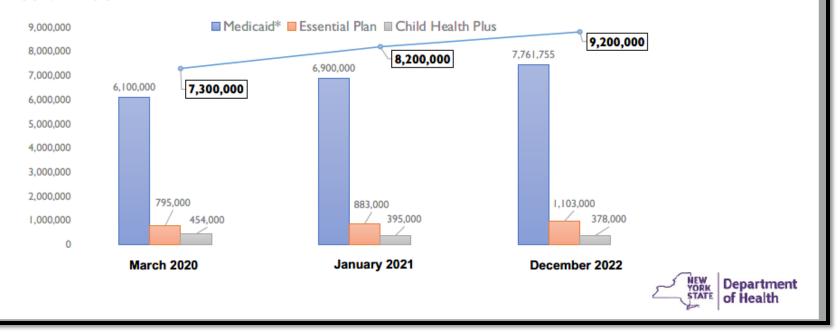
Continuous Coverage Review

- Between March 18, 2020 and June 30, 2023, a recipient's Medicaid case could NOT close even if income or assets increased. Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
- During that period, eligibility was extended for 12 months for all authorizations ending through May 31, 2023.
- First discontinuances allowed July 1, 2023 after renewals processed (but should not really see many in NYC until January, more below)



Impact of PHE Provisions on Public Health Insurance

As of December 2022, more than 9 million New Yorkers – approaching 50% of the State's population - are enrolled in Medicaid, Essential Plan, and Child Health Plus



Slides available at:

https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/sites/default/files/NYSDOH%20Presentation%20-%20PHE%20and%20Continuous%20Coverage%20Unwind%20Plan.pdf



PHE impact on Medicaid

NY State of Health

- ✓ New York's Integrated Marketplace
- ✓ Administers MAGI

5.3 Million Members

Local Departments of Social Services

- ✓ WMS New York's Legacy Eligibility System
- ✓ Administers non-MAGI and Temporary Assistance

2.4 Million Members

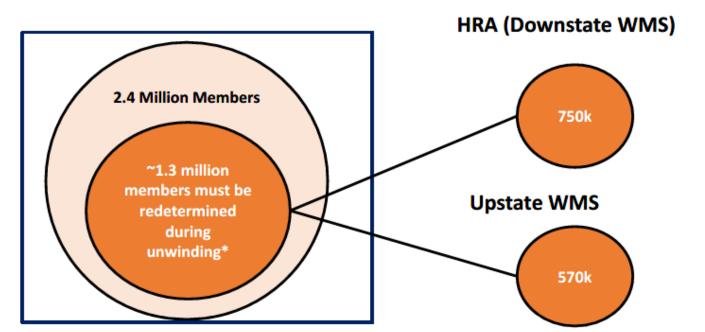
 Roughly half of whose eligibility is based on cash assistance





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Local District Enrollees in Unwind



*If New York's SNAP proposal is adopted, HRA's caseload would be further reduced by approximately 188k and Upstate's by 118K



Local DSS Manage Medicaid Mainly for Aged 65+, Blind & Disabled (Non-MAGI)



NYS Adopted Consumer Friendly Unwind Flexibilities

NY received approval from CMS for seven (7) E14 waivers to promote eligibility and reduce administrative burden.

- Auto Renewal for non-MAGI recipients at 100 Percent FPL
- Enhancing ability Enrollment Broker Contact with recipients
- Fair Hearing aid continuing and non-recoupment
- MCO Contact with recipients
- Auto renewal for Non-MAGI SNAP recipients
- Auto renewal for CHIP & SNAP recipients
- Auto-renewal for Zero Income recipients
- Waiver of the resource test at renewal and change in circumstances for non-MAGI recipients
- Waiver of the SSI-related budgeting methodology so that individuals over 65 and/or with Medicare can remain in NY State of Health
- Waiver that allows individuals with fixed social security or pension income that is below the income eligibility level to be auto renewed

Waiver of the Non-MAGI Resource Test

From GIS 23 MA 14: Since the resource test is waived for Medicaid recipients during the Unwind, no action is taken to discontinue Medicaid coverage if a recipient is determined to have resources above the applicable resource level prior to July 1, 2023 or on/after July 1, 2023.

Assets should still be reported on LDSS renewals, but eligibility won't be denied if excess assets.

- For unwinding renewals ONLY
- NOT new applicants
- AND NOT applicants seeking to upgrade coverage (e.g., CBLTC to nursing home)

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Auto-renewal of Medicaid for SNAP recipients

- If Non-MAGI Medicaid recipient* receives SNAP, their Medicaid will be auto-renewed without a paper renewal
- Certain populations excluded:
 - People with MSP only
 - People turning 65
 - People in nursing homes, long term with chronic budgeting
 - MBIWPD (only available to <65 but changing soon—see later slides)
 - People referred from the marketplace
 - A few others—see GIS 23 MA 14 at p. 2
- Automation was delayed until:
 - NYC Renewals for Oct. 31, 2023
 - Rest of State Renewals for Sept. 30, 2023
- State developed a "Mitigation Plan"

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Mitigation Plan

- If a consumer fails to return a paper renewal during the Mitigation Period HRA will extend the case and send another renewal through December 2023.
 - HRA: No capacity for manual SNAP review. If renewals with are not returned, cases will be extended for an additional 4 or 5 months. Extended cases will be reviewed for SNAP-match and/or sent a 2nd renewal before the case is closed.
- Result: Very few case closures until Jan. 2024 in NYC

Outside NYC: For authorizations thru August 31 – the strategy was that if renewal not returned, LDSS tried to manually review case to see if has SNAP. If so, Medicaid is auto-renewed. If not, Medicaid can be discontinued (with 10-day notice). State ended up extending these cases for two months.



Unwind Flexibility: Most Duals Stay on NYSOH

- NYSOH-enrolled Medicaid recipients in receipt of Medicare (duals) will keep their Medicaid cases on the exchange.
- During the unwind (June 1, 2023 May 31, 2024),
 their eligibility will be determined using MAGI rules.
- Certain duals will be transitioned to the LDSS
 - Spenddown referrals for those 65+ or who have a disability
 - Individuals applying on NYSOH who need retroactive Medicaid coverage
 - Duals receiving LTSS (this has been paused)



Unwind Flexibility: Medicaid Fair Hearings

The federal government granted the Department of Health and the Office of Temporary Disability Administration (OTDA) flexibility regarding the 90-day deadline to decide a fair hearing with conditions.

- 1. AID CONTINUING MUST BE GRANTED for hearings requested on or after April 1, 2023, if the Fair Hearing request is within the statute of limitations to appeal the notice. It does not need to be requested before the effective date of the reduction. The time limits are:
 - 60 days for LDSS Medicaid eligibility/agency actions
 - 120 days for MLTC/ Managed Care actions
- 2. The state cannot seek to collect from the consumer for the cost of providing Aid Continuing should the consumer lose the fair hearing.



Get Ready for Renewals!

- For some clients this will be their first renewal since becoming Medicaid eligible.
- Remind clients to check the mail!
- Remind clients to report a change of address to the LDSS or NYSoH.
- Medicaid renewals article and fact sheet:
 - http://health.wnylc.com/hea lth/entry/227/
 - http://health.wnylc.com/hea lth/afile/227/763/





New Applicants for Medicaid & MSP

- July 1, 2023 COVID application "Easements" ended
- Since March 2020, applicants had not been required to document income, assets, etc. – they could simply "attest." GIS 20 MA/04. Both Community and Nursing Home Medicaid.
- The old documentation requirements re-started July 1, 2023 (copies of bank statements, life insurance cash value, IRA statements)
- Applicants must also meet other eligibility criteria such as enrolling in Medicare, applying for Social Security, taking IRA distributions, etc.

Unwind References

- GIS 23 MA 14 Updates to Medicaid Renewals and Other Processes in the Unwind Period
- GIS 23 MA 03Unwind of the Medicaid Continuous Coverage Requirement Related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and Processing Cases Under Regular Rules
- NYS DOH Unwind Dashboard
 - https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/PHE-unwind-dashboard
- CMS
 - https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/unwinding-and-returning-regular-operations-aftercovid-19/index.html
- www.nyhealthaccess.org articles
 - Unwind news: http://health.wnylc.com/health/news/78/
 - Renewals: http://health.wnylc.com/health/entry/227/



LANDMARK MEDICAID INCREASES STARTED ON 1/1/23 – INCOME & ASSET LEVELS



Background: Non-MAGI and MAGI

MAGI Medicaid

- WHO: Only < 65 who do not have Medicare (or if caregiver of minor child)
- WHAT: Affordable Care Act (ACA) expanded eligibility-2014
- MAGI = Modified Adjusted
 Gross Income because uses
 tax rules for income.
- Income limit = 138% Federal Poverty Line (FPL)
- NO ASSET limit

NON-MAGI Medicaid

- WHO: Age 65+, Blind & Disabled < 65
- WHAT: ACA didn't include this category.
- NON-MAGI Eligibility based on old strict rules
- Income limit was 82% FPL
 NYS not based on FPL

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Strict ASSET limit

Until 2023, Medicaid recipients "**fell off the cliff**" when they became enrolled in Medicare and lost MAGI budgeting -- incurring a spend-down or being thrown off because of the asset limit.

Non-MAGI Medicaid & Medicare Savings Program (MSP) Income & Resource Limits

	Monthly Income Limit		Asset Limit			
FPL	Single	Couple	Single	Couple		
2022						
82% Medicaid	\$ 934	\$1,367	\$16,800	\$24,600		
100% QMB	\$1,133	\$1,526	NO L	IMIT		
120% SLIMB	\$1,359	\$1,831	NO L	IMIT		
135% QI-1	\$1,529	\$2,060	NO L	IMIT		
2023						
138% Medicaid	\$1,677	\$2,268	\$30,180	\$40,820		
138% QMB*	\$1,677	\$2,268	NO L	.IMIT		
186% QI-1*	\$2,260	\$3,057	NO L	.IMIT		

^{*} Both **QMB & QI-1 MSP** pay Part B premium \$164.90/mo 2023. QMB also pays Medicare cost-sharing. QI-1 is only for people who *don't have Medicaid*, unlike QMB. See Charts in Appendix pp. 3-7, 22-28

- A. Age 65+, Blind & Disabled are still Non-MAGI.
 - Spousal refusal, spousal impoverishment budgeting rules continue.*
 - 2. Rules for *source* of income continue (non-MAGI more favorable for *earned* income).
 - 3. Non-MAGI still has asset limit, with exceptions (IRA, burial funds, home).
 - 4. If income is above the new limits may still use Pooled Trust/SNT or "spend down" on medical expenses.
 - Still apply & renew at local DSS not on NYSofHealth
- B. Nursing home budgeting won't change same calculation of Net Adjusted Monthly Income (NAMI) if permanent placement but with Community Budgeting can keep \$1677/mo

Asset limits increase, but the budgeting rules don't change!

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Medicare Savings Program

•If you only remember one piece of advice, it's this:

MSP ROCKS!

All MSP Programs (QMB & QI-1):

- Pay Part B premium in 2024 = \$174.70/mo or \$2,096.40/annually
- Get Extra Help with Part D saves about \$5,000/yr.
- Eliminates Late Enrollment Penalty for Part B or Part D (some restrictions)
- Special Enrollment Period for Part B and Part D
- No resource test
- One-page application

QMB only - covers Medicare cost-sharing

Medicare Savings Program Changes in 2023

Still NO Resource Limit but now only 2 Income Limits

QMB Income <138% FPL

- \$ 1677 (single) *
- \$ 2268 (couple) *

QI-1 Income <186% FPL

- \$ 2260 (single) *
- \$ 3057 (couple) *

(*) Based on 2023 FPL

	QMB	QI-1
Part B Premium Assistance	X	X
Extra Help	X	X
Part A Premium Assistance	X	
Part A & B Deductible	X	
Part A & B Co-Insurance	X	
Balance Billing Protection	X	
Can you have Medicaid with a Spend-down (next slide)	X	



EXTRA HELP / LOW INCOME SUBSIDY (LIS)

Financial Assistance with Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage



Extra Help – Eligibility

Who gives it?

Federal Part D subsidy administered by CMS.

Eligibility administered by Social Security Administration (SSA) for those without Medicaid or MSP.

Who gets it & How?

Medicaid, SSI and MSP recipients in NYS – DEEMED ELIGIBLE for FULL EXTRA HELP

- OR APPLY to SSA for:
 - Full Extra Help up to 150% of FPL (IRA partial Extra Help eliminated)

If income < 150% - ALWAYS better to apply for MSP!
No Asset Test!

	Household Size of 1	Household Size of 2	
	11003011010 0120 01 1	11003011010 0120 01 2	
Income Guideline	\$1823 *	\$2485 *	
Resource Guideline	\$ 15,160 *	\$30,240 *	

* 2023 Poverty Level

Resource Rules

- Resources –above levels assume intent to use \$1500/spouse for burial.
- Cash value life insurance excluded
- IRA principal COUNTED even if in payout status.
- NO spousal refusal. Spouse resources count
- Most other SSI exclusions apply



Extra Help 2024

	No Subsidy	Full Extra Help (up to 150% FPL)	
Premium	Range: \$3.70 - \$135.40	"Benchmark" premium 100% subsidized (\$48.72 in 2024)	
Deductible	\$545	NO Deductible	
Initial Coverage Period	Tiered Co-Pays (for Generic) and 25% or 50% for Brand and Specialty Drug	>100% FPL: \$4.50 – Generic \$11.20 – Brand	
Coverage Gap ("donut hole")	25% for Generic, Brand and Specialty Drugs	< 100% FPL: \$1.55 – Generic \$4.60 Brand	
Out of Pocket Threshold	\$8,000	\$0 co-pays for Nursing Home, MLTC, Waivers – TBI, NHTD, OPWDD (See GIS 12 MA 005)	
Catastrophic Coverage	\$0 Co-Pays (*)	\$0 Co-Pays (*)	

^(*) Under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022: As of 1/1/2024: The 5% cost-sharing coinsurance in the catastrophic coverage will be eliminated = \$0 cost sharing



NEW YORK INDEPENDENT ASSESSOR PROGRAM (NYIAP)



The New York Independent Assessor Program?

Enacted in 2020 Budget, and phased in starting May 2022, NYIAP assesses Medicaid recipients over the age of 18+ seeking home care to determine:

- A. Eligibility to enroll in a Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) plan (this is same as with Conflict Free assessment), or
- B. NEW with NYIAP Eligibility to receive Personal Care (PCS), Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance (CDPAP) from:
 - i. Local DSS (if exempt from MLTC or based on *Immediate Need*)
 - Mainstream Medicaid managed care plans (for those who do not have Medicare or other Third Party Health Insurance)

NYIAP is run by Maximus under a NYS DOH contract. THREE websites!

- 1. NYIAP Website (Maximus): https://nyia.com/en (also Spanish)
- 2. NYS DOH NYIAP website https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/nyia/ Document Repository tab on site has links to NYIAP Policies
- 3. NYLAG webpage on NYIAP http://health.wnylc.com/health/news/85/#Independent%20Assessor%20NEW



Independent Assessor being phased in:

A. Started May 16, 2022:

- For enrollment into MLTC/MAP
- 2. For **NEW** requests for PCS/CDPAP to DSS for 18+
- Mainstream managed care Standard* NEW requests for PCS/CDPAP for age 18+ and voluntary transfers to MLTC

B. Started December 1, 2022:

 Immediate need applications to DSS/HRA and expedited new requests to mainstream managed care.*

C. Not yet, but as soon as January 2024:

- Annual reassessments
 – for MLTC, mainstream managed care & DSS/HRA
- Every request to plan or LDSS for an increase or on discharge from NH, hospital.
- *Standard requests must be processed in 14 days. Expedited must be processed in 72 hours, if delay would seriously jeopardize enrollee's life or health or ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function. Both subject to 14 day extension. 42 CFR 438,210(d)

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NYIAP Expansion Per DOH Oct. 2, 2023 Letter

 In an Oct. 2 letter, DOH announced NYIAP will expand to routine reassessments and conducting non-routine reassessments in **January 2024** on a rolling regional basis.

HTTPs://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/nyiap/docs/2023-10-03_rollout.pdf

- Routine reassessment
 - Starts March 2024, ROS (everywhere but NYC + LI)
 - The individual will be informed they must contact NYIAP to schedule their routine reassessment and clinical exam.
 - Where an individual contacts the LDSS or MCO for a routine reassessment, they should be referred to NYIAP consistent with the dates in rollout schedule.
- Non-Routine Reassessment
 - Starts January 2024, ROS (everywhere but NYC + LI)
 - Any individuals contacting the LDSS or MCO for a non-routine reassessment should be referred to NYIAP consistent with the dates in the rollout plan to schedule a non-routine reassessment and clinical exam.

How to initiate a NYIAP assessment?

- Standard NYIAP Process
 - Consumers seeking MLTC enrollment or PCA/CDPAP services from the MCO or LDSS calls:
 - 855-222-8350 M-F 8:30 am-8:00pm, Sat 10:00am-6:00pm
- Expedited Request from Mainstream Managed Care
 https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/managed_care/plans/docs/mmc_guidance_.pdf
 - Don't call NYIAP.
 - FIRST, File required documents with MCO.
 - MCO will make a 3-way call to NYIA to schedule NYIAP assessments.
 - After NYIAP assessment completed, MCO follows up with consumer to approve / authorize or deny PCA/CDPAS.
- Immediate Need -

https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/publications/docs/gis/22ma09.pd f

- Don't call NYIAP.
- FIRST, File the required documents to apply for Immediate Need with HRA/DSS –not NYIA.
- HRA/DSS will make a 3-way call to NYIA to schedule the assessments.
- After assessments completed, HRA/DSS should follow up without requiring consumer to contact them.

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See Document Repository on DOH website - https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/nyiap/repository/index.htm

NYIAP Conducts 2 Assessments (sometimes 3)

- 1. CHA or IA Community Health Assessment (Maximus Nurse assessment using the UAS-NY) —same as the old CFEEC.
- 2. CA -- Clinical Appointment Examination by the Independent Practitioner Panel (IPP)(doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant), which then prepares the PO:
 - PO Practitioner's Order Replaces the M-11q or DOH-4359 Physician's Order. Signed by IPP. Decides if medical condition is stable as required for PCS/CDPAP plus whether needs help with ADLs 120+ days as needed to enroll in MLTC

NYIA sends *Outcome Notice* - says whether:

- may enroll in MLTC MLTC plan develops plan of care
- or whether condition is stable for PCS/CDPAP from mainstream plan or LDSS. If so -- go back to DSS or MMC plan, which use NYIA assessments to develop a Plan of Care.
 - Unless Expedited OR Immediate Need

If the plan of care is for > 12 hours/day then a third assessment is required.

3. IRP Independent Review Panel – New "high needs review" required if Plan or LDSS proposes hours more than 12 per day on average, for the first time. But may enroll in MLTC plan while IRP is review is pending.

Complaints to the DOH about NYIAP

Send to BOTH:

- Independent.assessor@health.ny.gov (518) 474-5888
- 2. And appropriate DOH Complaint Unit either:
 - MLTC DOH Complaint Unit 1-866-712-7197 <u>mltctac@health.ny.gov</u> OR
 - MMC (Mainstream)- DOH Complaint Unit managedcarecomplaint@health.ny.gov 1–800–206–8125
 - DSS has no DOH complaint unit so just send to #1

Alphabet Soup! Acronym Reference!

NYIA - New York Independent Assessor – replaces CFEEC (Conflict-Free Evaluation and Enrollment Center) – Does 2 or 3 assessments:

- 1. CHA or IA Community Health Assessment or Independent Assessment (Maximus Nurse assessment using the UAS-NY)
- 2. IPP Independent Practitioner Panel Maximus doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant who will now schedule:
 - CA Clinical Appointment Examination by the IPP, which then prepares --
 - PO Practitioner's Order Replaces the M-11q or DOH-4359 Physician's Order.
 Will be signed by IPP.
- 3. IRP Independent Review Panel –New review required if plan or LDSS proposes hours more than 12 per day on average, for the first time

Acronyms used here that are NOT changing --

- PCS Personal care services
- CDPAP Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program
- DSS or LDSS Local county Dept. of Social Services (HRA in NYC) --Medicaid agency that handles all applications for Medicaid and requests for PCS/CDPAP
 - (1) for people excluded or exempt from MLTC or mainstream managed care or
 - (2) applying based on Immediate Need for home care
- TBI and NHTDW Traumatic Brain Injury & Nursing Home Transition & Diversion Waiver
- MMC Mainstream Medicaid Managed Care mandatory plans for those without Medicare or other primary insurance, and who have no spenddown. Mostly under age 65, but also includes elderly or disabled SSI recipients who don't have Medicare, often because of immigration status. Members of these plans must request PCS or CDPAP from the plan and all other Medicaid services.

Reference: Regulations, Guidance, Websites

- Regulations Amended Personal Care & CDPAP 18 NYCRR 505.14 & 505.28
- 2. **DSS** policies <u>22 OHIP/ADM-01</u> (4/20/22)
 - GIS 22 MA/09 (12/1/22) -- Immediate Need
- 3. MLTC MLTC Policy 22.01 (4/27/22)
- **4. Mainstream Managed Care** <u>Guidance</u> 4/28/22 (mostly people without Medicare or other primary insurance)
 - https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/managed_care/plans/mmc_guidance.htm (11/17/22) Expedited Mainstream Assessments
- **NY Medicaid Choice** website https://nymedicaidchoice.com/ask/do-i-qualify-managed-long-term-care
- NYLAG NYIA updates
 http://health.wnylc.com/health/news/85/#Independent%20Assessor%20NE
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ADDITIONAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE EXPANSIONS IN NEW YORK



NYS Medicaid and Essential Plus Expansion

- June 14, 2023 New York Medicaid and Child Health Plus (CHPlus) extended the duration of postpartum health coverage from 60 days to a full year following pregnancy.
- January 1, 2024 expansion of Essential Plan eligibility to 250% of the FPL (under 65)
- January 1, 2024 Undocumented people 65+ will be eligible for full Medicaid
- January 1, 2025- MBI-WPD expanded to 65+; high income limits, and \$300,000 asset test not including retirement funds (date could be postponed)



How to Stay Up to Date

 Sign up for NYLAG EFLRP e-lerts with updates here http://eepurl.com/deQxtr - select TOPIC: Medicaid, long-term care

Look for updates at <u>www.NYHealthAccess.org</u>



THANK YOU

More information at nylag.org









