
WISCONSIN MEDICAID UPDATE

OCTOBER 8, 1997

UPDATE 97-33

TO:

All Providers

County/Tribal Aging Units

County Departments of:

Community Programs

Human Services

Social Services

HMOs and other Managed Care
Programs

Independent Living Centers

Local Health Departments

Health Care Connections (HCC)

Health Care Connections (HCC) is a new voluntary Medicaid program for fee-for-service Medicaid recipients with high-cost, chronic health conditions. HCC provides comprehensive case management to assist recipients in locating and coordinating medical and social services.

Because physicians play a key role in managing medical care, the case manager will consult with the HCC participant's physicians in developing a case plan.



For the program to succeed, Wisconsin Medicaid will need the cooperation of *all* providers. We encourage you to refer appropriate recipients to the program and to work with the HCC case managers in assessing participants' care needs.

Attached is information about the new Medicaid program, Health Care Connections. Please feel free to share this information with recipients.

Wisconsin Medicaid
HEALTH CARE CONNECTIONS

What is Health Care Connections?

Health Care Connections (HCC) is a new *voluntary* program offered by Wisconsin Medicaid to provide comprehensive case management services for Medicaid recipients who have high-cost, chronic health conditions.

Who is eligible for HCC?

The program is open to most Medicaid recipients who:

- Have annual Medicaid expenses or expected expenses greater than \$25,000.
- Have a medical condition within the following categories: spinal cord injury, ventilator dependency, head trauma, multiple sclerosis/myelopathy/Parkinson's disease, diabetes mellitus, metabolic/blood disorders, cerebral palsy, airway/respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, AIDS, cancer, or arthritis/bone disorder.
- Are not living in an institution.
- Are not receiving case management through other programs like HMOs, CIP-IA, CIP-IB, CIP-II, CSLA, or COP-waiver programs.

What are the goals of HCC?

The goals of the program are to:

- Improve quality and coordination of care.
- Save tax dollars through case management services.

What are the benefits to people who participate in HCC?

A case manager will work with the participant, the participant's family, and health care providers to:

- Identify medical, community, and social service needs.
- Develop a plan to help maintain the participant's best possible health.
- Provide and identify educational opportunities about health care needs.
- Help obtain appropriate Medicaid-covered services when they are needed.
- Simplify access to services.
- Identify and foster the use of community resources, including friends and family.

Case management services are available to the participant 24-hours a day.

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Are participants limited to certain providers?

No. Participants in HCC remain fee-for-service (blue Medicaid ID card).

Do participants have to stay in the program once they sign up?

No. Participation is entirely voluntary on the part of recipients. Participants may disenroll at any time and still continue with all regular Medicaid benefits.

Is there a cost to participants?

No. This new program is funded by Wisconsin Medicaid. There is no additional cost to participate in HCC.


Who will provide HCC case management?


Children's Hospital of Wisconsin will provide case management services to children under age 21 living in eastern Wisconsin. *The Management Group, Inc.* (an agency with case management experience) will provide case management services to children in the remaining areas of the state as well as to all adults in Wisconsin.


When will the program begin?

Applications for enrollment will be accepted beginning in the fall of 1997.

How can I get more information, join, or refer someone to the program?

 *Health Care Connections - Children's Hospital of Wisconsin* (414) 266-6966 (Milwaukee area) or (888) 249-7233 (toll-free).
(For children in these counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Milwaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Shawano, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago.)

 *Health Care Connections - The Management Group, Inc.* (608) 255-7939 (Madison area) or (888) 262-9116 (toll-free).
(For children in counties not listed above and all adults in Wisconsin.)

 For general information, you may also call the Medicaid fiscal agent, EDS.

- Providers may call (800) 947-9627 (toll-free) or (608) 221-9883 (Madison area).
- Recipients may call (800) 362-3002 (toll-free) or (608) 221-5720 (Madison area). TTY-voice accessible.