



# MI HEALTH LINK

Linking Medicare and Medicaid for you  
**Bulletin April 2022**



## Meet the MI Health Link Team: *Allison Tribfelner*

Hello! I'm Allison Tribfelner and I am thrilled to join the MI Health Link Team as a Quality Analyst. My role as a Quality Analyst helps to ensure that our beneficiaries are receiving outstanding quality care through our program.

I received my Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Michigan State University. Since then, I have worked in a variety of nursing roles. Clinically my background centered around working with critically ill children and adults, with the majority of my clinical years spent at the University of Michigan Motts Children Hospital. After leaving bedside nursing, I continued my career in Case Management, becoming CCM certified. Through this role I was able to assist others with coordination of needed medical services, equipment and transitions of care. I have also worked in some unique roles, such as being a

Hospitalist RN in Seattle, WA and School Nurse in Saginaw, MI. My most recent role was in public health as a Supervisor for my local Health Department's Family Planning and STI programs, as well as a Covid Vaccine Clinic Coordinator. These roles have given me a well-rounded and unique perspective of the private and public health care sectors, as well as a substantial background in case management, quality and utilization management. I feel very fortunate to have these experiences to draw upon in my new role as a Quality Analyst.

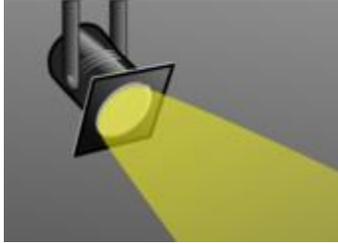
I am a proud parent to 3 wonderful children, ranging in age from 7 to 15, who keep me very busy with many sports, band and dance activities! In my free time, I coach my daughter's basketball team, enjoy reading and cooking, travel with my family as often as possible, and assist in various activities and committees at my children's schools.

I look forward to working with and getting to know you all – I am very proud to be joining this team and to be a State of Michigan employee!

-Allison Tribfelner

## **New Medicare Coverage of At Home COVID-19 Tests for MHL Beneficiaries**

Effective April 4, 2022 and continuing until the termination of the public health emergency MI Health Link Beneficiaries can access up to eight at home COVID-19 tests a month through their Medicare Part B benefit. CMS has provided a [fact sheet](#) with details about the coverage. Members can get over-the-counter COVID-19 tests at any pharmacy or health care provider that participates in this initiative with no associated out of pocket cost. A partial list of participating pharmacies can be found at <https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-coronavirus>. The providers will submit claims directly to Original Medicare for reimbursement and not the ICO for these tests. Once the quantity limit of eight tests a month has been reached, members can access additional tests through the Medicaid pharmacy benefit. See [MSA 21-50](#) for conditions of coverage. Considerations are being made for future coverage of COVID tests for beneficiaries. Stay tuned for further information and updates.



# MI Health Link Service Spotlight:

## Adult Day Program

Adult Day Program services are furnished four or more hours per day on a regularly scheduled basis, for one or more days per week, or as specified in the Individual Integrated Care and Supports Plan (IICSP), in a non-institutional, community-based setting, encompassing both health and social services needed to ensure the optimal functioning of the enrollee. Meals provided as part of these services shall not constitute a “full nutritional regimen,” i.e., three meals per day. Physical, occupational and speech therapies may be furnished as component parts of this service.

Transportation between the enrollee’s residence and the Adult Day Program center is provided when it is a standard component of the service. Not all Adult Day Program centers offer transportation to and from their location. Adult Day Program centers that do offer transportation may only offer it in a specified area. When the Adult Day Program Center offers transportation, it is a component part of the Adult Day Program service. If the center does not offer transportation, then the ICO will pay for the transportation to and from the Adult Day Program center separately.

Adult Day Programs must be in compliance with the Final Rule requirements for non-residential settings. The criteria ensure that HCBS participants have access to the benefits of community living and live and receive services in integrated, non-institutional settings. Adult Day Program settings must be verified by MDHHS for compliance with the HCBS Final Rule at the time of HCBS Waiver enrollment and annually thereafter. If an enrollee has already been enrolled in the HCBS Waiver, and the enrollee later wishes to participate in an Adult Day Program, the ICO must check with MDHHS to see if the setting has been approved as compliant with the Final Rule. The ICO can verify compliance by:

- Contacting MDHHS via the [MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov) mailbox with the name and address of the setting. Request that MDHHS staff look up the setting to determine if a compliance determination has been made. If the setting is compliant, MDHHS staff will confirm this in the comment box within the CHAMPS enrollment.
- If a compliance determination has not been established, the ICO will be notified and must conduct a setting survey by utilizing the standard statewide Provider Survey tool produced by MDHHS, in the Excel

format. The ICO will submit the survey to MDHHS for a compliance determination.

For questions related to the Adult Day Program service or the process to confirm compliance with settings criteria contact the MHL waiver team at [MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov)

## Beneficiary Health and Welfare

Elder Abuse is a serious public health problem in the United States. Each year hundreds of thousands of older adults are abused, neglected and financially exploited. Most victims are older, frail and vulnerable and depend on others to meet their basic needs. Typically, the abuse occurs at the hands of a caregiver, family member or someone the older adult trusts. To protect one of the most vulnerable populations is to know the facts, how to report abuse and how to prevent abuse from occurring. Critical incidents for MI Health Link members must be reported to MDHHS using the online Critical Incident Reporting System. ICOs are required to report the type of critical incidents, the responses to those incidents, and the outcome and resolution of each event within 30 days of the date of incident.

### ELDER ABUSE FACTS

- 1 in 10 Americans age 60+ have experienced some form of Abuse.
- For every 1 case of Elder Abuse reported, 44 go unreported.
- Only 1 in 14 cases of Elder Abuse come to the attention of Authorities.
- Lack of community supports increase the risk of abuse.
- Isolation is a risk factor of Elder Abuse.
- The costs of Elder Abuse are high for the affected individuals and society alike.
- Elder Abuse reduces older people's participation in the life of our communities.
- Abuse creates healthcare and legal costs, which are often shouldered by public programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

- The annual loss by survivors of Financial Abuse is estimated to be between \$2.6 billion and \$36.5 billion.
- Elder Abuse is associated with increased rates of hospitalization.

#### **HOW TO PREVENT ELDER ABUSE**

- Learn the signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Call or regularly visit older loved ones
- Learn about community supports
- Know who to contact to report suspected abuse

*To learn more about Elder Abuse and prevention please visit:*

<https://ncea.acl.gov/>

MDHHS Statewide 24-Hour Reporting Hotline: 855-444-3911

## **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

***June 15th, 2022***



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEADD) is less than two months away. One of the many ways you can help raise awareness is by joining the 2nd annual virtual [Walk for WEAAD](#) put on by the National Center for Elder Abuse (NCEA) and the Administration for Community Living (ACL).

You can now register for the Walk for WEAAD campaign, which begins May 1st (the first day of [Older Americans Month](#)) and runs through June 15th, WEAAD. Sign up now [online](#) or through the Walker Tracker [app](#), and get ready to walk, run, or do a variety of other activities accessible to people of different ages and abilities.

For questions about the campaign, contact ACL's National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) at [ncea@med.usc.edu](mailto:ncea@med.usc.edu). For technical questions about the platform, [contact](#) the Walker Tracker support team or click the "Contact Support" button in the lower right-hand corner of your program dashboard on the desktop site or mobile app.



## Resource Link

### ***Michigan Homeowners Assistance Fund (MIHAF)***

The Homeowner Assistance Fund was established under section 3206 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (the ARP) to mitigate hardships associated with the coronavirus pandemic by providing funds to prevent homeowner mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosure, loss of utilities or home energy services and displacements of homeowners experiencing financial hardship on or after January 21, 2020 or for those homeowners who experience a coronavirus pandemic financial hardship that began before January 21, 2020 but continued after that date.

If a housing need is identified for a MHL beneficiary, care coordinators are expected to support the member by identifying and connecting the enrollee to useful resources. If the MIHAF may be beneficial for the enrollee, the coordinator should assist with the application process or connect the enrollee to resources that can assist with this process.

### **Who Is Eligible?**

- Homeowners with household incomes less than 150% of Area Median Income (AMI)
- Homeowners who own and occupy the property as their primary residence
- Homeowners must have and explain a financial hardship directly related to COVID-19 on or after **January 21, 2020**

**Up to \$25,000 Grant Per Household to Pay:**

- Delinquent mortgage/housing expenses, including property tax and insurance escrow shortages
- Delinquent land contract payments, mobile home consumer loan payments or mobile home park lot payments
- Delinquent property taxes
- Delinquent condominium/homeowners' association fees
- Delinquent homeowner's insurance,
- Delinquent utilities, gas, electric, water, sewer
- Delinquent internet broadband services

A “Qualified Financial Hardship” is a material reduction in income or material increase in living expenses associated with the coronavirus pandemic that has created or increased a risk of mortgage delinquency, mortgage default, foreclosure, loss of utilities or home energy services, or displacement for a homeowner.

- Reduction of Income – Temporary or permanent loss of earned income on or after January 21, 2020 or that began before January 21, 2020 but continued after that date.
- Increase in living expenses – Increase in out-of-pocket household expenses such as, medical expenses, inadequate medical insurance, increase in household size, or costs to reconnect utility services directly related to coronavirus pandemic on or after January 21, 2020 or that began before January 21, 2020 but continued after that date.

See the [Michigan Homeowners Assistance Fund website](#) for additional details and information on how to apply.

## Education Opportunitites

### ***5th Annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day***

National Council on Aging presents to all public health practitioners, professionals in the aging network, mental health providers, health care professionals, and anyone interested in ensuring the mental health of older adults should attend this free, virtual event on May 16, 2022. Register [here](#).

### ***Ethically Handling End of Life Issues with Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia***

Oasis Senior Advisors presents an educational opportunity exploring the ethical dilemmas that arise when dealing with patients at end stage of Alzheimer's disease.

This live interactive webinar will be held Thursday June 23, 2022 2-3:15pm.

Register [here](#).

### ***Michigan Center for Rural Health Upcoming Trainings:***

The Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH) provides a variety of trainings and educational opportunities for healthcare professionals. Please follow this [link](#) for more information and to register for any upcoming events. See below:

May 4th 12-1 Dementia Types presented by Dr. Mark Ensberg, MD

May 25th 12-1 Challenging Behaviors presented by Dr. Jeanette Schnied, MD PhD

## **TED Talk: Listening to Shame**

***Professor Brené Brown on shame and how it impacts our daily work and lives.***

Shame is an epidemic in our culture. And to get out from underneath it—to find our way back to one another, we have to understand how it affects us, how it affects the way we're working, the way we're connecting, and the way we're looking at one another. This TED Talk helps us talk about the s-word.

Please take a moment to listen [here](#) for words of wisdom and support for the work you do every day. Thank you for improving the lives of the beneficiaries we serve.

## Expanding Equity in Managed Care

MDHHS has initiated a project focusing on eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare and health outcomes. The initiative will focus on key vulnerable populations in Medicaid managed care programs including MI Health Link. The project will focus on identifying, quantifying and monitoring disparities to identify gaps in care and ultimately methods to drive improvements towards pursuing equitable care for beneficiaries.

In addition to the Integrated Care Organizations (ICOs) participating in the MI Health Link program, MDHHS is also partnering with the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) on this project and a comprehensive report of the work will be publicly published on an annual basis moving forward. We encourage ICO staff working on HEDIS reporting, health equity, and quality initiatives to contact their supervisors if they are interested in participating in this project.



## Q & A: Your Questions About MI Health Link

*If you have a question about the MHL program we want to hear from you. We will work to get you the information you need.\**

Please send any questions for future bulletins to [Integratedcare@michigan.gov](mailto:Integratedcare@michigan.gov)

**Q:** *For the waiver team:* How should care coordinators expect to receive notification of any deficiencies or discrepancies MDHHS identifies on HCBS waiver enrollment cases?

**A:** At this time communication regarding deficiencies identified with waiver cases is being done via email. MDHHS will request that the ICO upload additional or revised documentation to CHAMPs as necessary. Please continue to utilize [MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov) for questions for the waiver team.

(Note: this communication does NOT apply to the current Service Request (SR) process for MI Health Link enrollment discrepancies. This is for waiver application questions ONLY.)

\*IMPORTANT: Beneficiaries with questions concerning their own enrollment or eligibility should call Michigan ENROLLS Monday through Friday, 8AM-7PM for assistance at 1-800-975-7630 or 1-888-263-5897 if they use TTY. Providers may work directly with the ICO health plan for beneficiary related inquires. In order to protect beneficiary personal identifiable information (PII) and protected health information (PHI) please refrain from sending MI Health Link this information.

## Topic Submission

If you have suggestions for topics to be addressed in future additions of the MI Health Link Bulletin, please send them to [Integratedcare@michigan.gov](mailto:Integratedcare@michigan.gov)



## Quick Links

[MI Health Link Website](#)

[CMS Financial Alignment Website](#)

[MI Health Link Minimum Operating Standards](#)

[MDHHS Medicaid Provider Manual](#)

## Previously Released MHL Bulletins

Previously released MI Health Link Bulletins can be found by visiting the [MI Health Link Website](#).

---

***Become a foster parent through Michigan Department of Health & Human Services foster care program.***



Questions? [Contact Us](#)

**SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:**

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe All](#) | [Subscriber Help](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



---

This email was sent to millera64@michigan.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Michigan Dept of Health & Human Services · 235 S. Grand Ave W. · Lansing, MI 48909 ·