



MI HEALTH LINK

Linking Medicare and Medicaid for you
Bulletin February 2023



Meet the MI Health Link Team: Sean Hancock

Hello, I'm Sean Hancock, an Enrollment Analyst with MI Health Link. I joined the team in March 2020.

I graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science in 2017 and then received a master's degree in Public Health from Wayne State University in 2019. While working on my master's degree, I began working at the State as an Assistance Payments Worker. Prior to State employment, I worked as a life insurance case manager at a financial advising company.

I live in Wolverine Lake with my boyfriend and our dog, a Pomeranian mix named Poppy. When not working, I enjoy reading, cooking, and playing guitar. I also love running and am currently training for my second half marathon this Spring.

I'm happy to be part of the MI Health Link Team and proud of the services and support we can provide to our fellow Michiganders!

-Sean

Program and Policy Notes

MI Health Link Program, Contractual, Policy Requirements and Highlights

MHL Integrated Care Organizations Among Top 10 Medicare-Medicaid Plans Nationwide

Three Integrated Care Organizations in the MI Health Link program have placed in the top 10 Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) nationwide. This achievement is based on the overall rating of health plan measure through the annual Adult Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey.

Under the capitated financial alignment model, Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) are required to annually conduct the Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MA-PD) CAHPS survey, which measures important aspects of an individual's health care experience, including the accessibility to and quality of services.

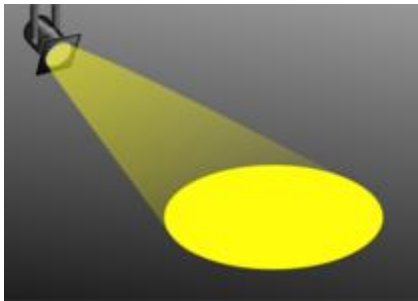
Congratulations to Amerihealth, HAP Empowered Health Plan, and Upper Peninsula Health Plan for this notable achievement! A lot of hard work went into this great accomplishment and it is well deserved. Thank you for all you do for the MI Health Link beneficiaries!

For more information on the MA-PD CAHPS survey see:

<http://www.ma-pdpcahps.org/>

Federal Covid-19 Public Health Emergency to End

On February 10, 2023 the Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) announced that the federal Covid-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) will end May 11, 2023. During the PHE many changes were made to the Michigan Medicaid program's eligibility, administration, and policies to ease rules for providers and prevent Medicaid beneficiaries from losing their healthcare coverage. [Per recent federal legislation](#), Michigan will restart the process for Medicaid eligibility renewals in March 2023. A timeline for this resumption and other details can be found [here](#). The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is working to finalize other relevant policy changes. Pertinent updates and Information including changes to Medicaid benefits that will result from the PHE ending can be found on the [MDHHS end of PHE website](#). The state is developing a toolkit for health plans to use that will be updated soon with new content. The toolkit is located [here](#).



MI Health Link Service Spotlight:

Private Duty Nursing Services

Private Duty Nursing (PDN) services are skilled nursing interventions available through the MI Health Link Home and Community Based (HCBS) waiver. PDN can be provided to an enrollee aged 21 or older on an individual and continuous basis, up to a maximum of 16 hours per day, to meet the enrollee's health needs directly related to the enrollee's physical disability.

To be eligible for PDN services, the Integrated Care Organizations must find the enrollee meets specific categories of medical criteria. An individual must meet either Medical Criteria I or Medical Criteria II, and Medical Criteria III. These criteria are detailed in the MI Health Link Minimum Operating Standards. Regardless of whether the enrollee meets Medical Criteria I or II, the enrollee must also meet Medical Criteria III.

All PDN services authorized must be medically necessary as indicated through the assessment and the enrollee's physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner must order PDN services and work in conjunction with the ICO and provider agency

to assure services are delivered according to that order. Enrollees receiving Preventive Nursing Services are not eligible to receive Private Duty Nursing Services.

The full list of minimum standards for service delivery for Private Duty Nursing Services can be viewed in the MHL Minimum Operating Standards [here](#).

Education and Support Opportunities

Thank you for participating in the Dementia Minds Council Training on February 14th, 2023. Please click [here](#) to take a survey and provide feedback.

For more information or any questions please contact Brenda Roberts, Executive Director of National Council of Dementia Minds, at Brenda@DementiaMinds.org.

Save the Date: 6th Annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium

Mark your calendars for May 11 to join the 6th Annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium! This free, all-day, virtual event will feature an engaging plenary, informative sessions, and a diverse array of topics addressing the most pressing mental health needs in older adults.

Who should attend?

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. In partnership with the [E4 Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Disparities in Aging](#), the National Council on Aging will be offering continuing education for several disciplines. The symposium is brought to you by the [National Council on Aging](#), [ACL](#), the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#), and the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#).

Looking for Continuing Education opportunities? Check these programs and websites for upcoming events in 2023:

[Jenerations Health Education](#)



Beneficiary Health and Welfare

Guardianship Abuse

Guardianship is the appointment by a court of one person or entity to make personal and/ or property decisions on behalf of another whom the court determines is unable to make such decisions.

Guardians make important life choices for at-risk adults with diminished decision-making capacity. Courts appoint a guardian to protect vulnerable individuals from abuse, neglect or exploitation. The court system does their best to appoint an individual, whether it be a family member or a professional, whom they believe will be best suited to meet the needs of the vulnerable adult. Guardians hold immense power over the individual(s) they are caring for, but not all guardians are looking out for the best interest of the individual and become the perpetrator of the abuse.

The existence of court supervision does not ensure that someone is safe from abuse by a guardian. Michigan's Attorney General, Dana Nessel, has been a fierce advocate to protect the most vulnerable and has proposed several bills regarding guardianship and conservatorship laws. If you suspect abuse by a guardian for a MI Health Link beneficiary, you may be able to prompt court intervention by informing the court of possible abuse and petition for court action. As with all forms of abuse, a report should be made to Adult Protective Services (APS) regardless if the perpetrator is a family member or professional guardian.

The National Center on Law and Elder Rights (NCLER) has identified risk factors that could increase the chances of guardianship abuse:

- Guardianship appointment was contentious—family disputes and/or conflicts of interest are present.
- Individual has no local supports of family or friends.
- Individual has difficulty communicating basic needs.
- Guardian is out of state and has no regular connection with the individual.
- Individual has a large estate, OR, little or no estate, garnering minimal attention.
- Individual has complex medical and mental health needs, and guardian is not equipped to address the needs.

- Guardian is a private agency or professional with multiple cases in several jurisdictions.
- Court is overwhelmed with cases needing guardians, makes rushed appointments, and monitoring is minimal

Signs of Abuse by Guardians:

- Fails to file timely accountings and reports with court
- Fails to file receipts with accounting
- Makes multiple unexplained ATM transactions
- Has no automated record-keeping
- Attorneys representing guardian withdraw
- Fails to pay rent or nursing home/assisted living bills, putting the person at risk of eviction
- Guardian is the representative payee and fails to use benefits for person's needs
- Fails to apply for public benefits for which individual may be eligible
- Makes large expenditures not appropriate to person's setting
- Requests fees higher than normal and not well substantiated; guardian drains estate and then seeks to resign
- Makes sudden changes in the person's residence, selling a home and/or moving the individual out of state with no stated rationale
- Hires friends, family, or business associates to provide services
- Isolates the person; fails to respond to requests from friends, family, or service provide

Learn about alternatives to guardianship here - [Free Webcast: Using Alternatives to Guardianship to Defend Against or Terminate Guardianship on Vimeo](#)

Use this link to learn about Guardianship Termination and Restoration of Rights [Free Webcast: Guardianship Termination and Restoration of Rights on Vimeo](#)



Resource Link:

Managing Your Distress in the Aftermath of a Shooting

In light of the recent mass shooting at Michigan State University (MSU) we want to share a resource from the

American Psychological Association (APA) for those that may be experiencing related distress. The article may be accessed [here](#). As we all continue to wrap our minds around this terrible tragedy, our hearts are with the victims, their families, and the wider MSU community. Events like these can upset our sense of order and safety, and often has impacts on individuals far outside of the affected area that have no personal connection to the tragedy. MI Health Link Care Coordinators are encouraged to ensure you are prioritizing your own self-care and emotional health as well as sharing resources and tips like those mentioned in this article with the individuals you work with that may need some additional support.

Resources for Integrated Care (RIC)

Resources for Integrated Care (RIC) partners with health plans, providers, and subject matter experts to identify promising practices and develop actionable technical assistance (TA) resources and trainings. These resources are intended to build capacity to address the needs of [beneficiaries dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid](#) and deliver more integrated and coordinated care.

RIC offers a variety of TA resources and trainings, such as tip sheets, briefs, spotlights, podcasts, videos, and webinars. Many of their event recordings are accessible on the RIC website, through their channel on [YouTube](#), or as podcast segments on [SoundCloud](#) and [iTunes](#).

RIC recently launched a blog series where they will spotlight practices shared by health plans that serve individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Please click [here](#) to learn more.

RIC develops resources on a variety of topics relevant to the dually eligible population. Click on each topic to learn more and to access relevant resources.

- [Behavioral Health](#)
- [Care Management & Care Coordination](#)
- [Caregiver Supports](#)
- [Cultural Competence](#)
- [Intellectual and Developmental Disability \(IDD\)](#)
- [Long-Term Services and Supports \(LTSS\)](#)
- [Member Engagement](#)
- [Older Adults](#)
- [Pain Management](#)
- [Person & Family Engagement](#)
- [Physical Disability](#)

Visit their [website](#) for more information and to learn more.

Health Equity Focus Group Participation

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is completing a project to assess how easy it is to access Medicaid home and community-based services and what challenges individuals have experienced in obtaining services. The Medicaid home and community-based services included in this project are:

- Home Help
- Home Health
- MI Health Link
- MI Choice Waiver
- PACE

Your thoughts and experiences are important. We want to hear from individuals that receive and provide Medicaid home and community-based services, as well as community partners, advocates, family members, and caregivers. If you are interested in joining a discussion and sharing your ideas about home and community-based services complete the interest form [here](#). Eligible participants will receive a \$30 gift card for joining.

Please contact Ogechi Nwaopara with any questions at MDHHS-HASA-HCBSHealthEquity@michigan.gov.



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.

Q: Where can I submit my questions related to the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE)?

A: Questions related to the Covid-19 PHE ending in May 2023 can be submitted to the integratedcare@michigan.gov mailbox. If your questions are directly related to the MI Health Link home and community-based services waiver, please send them to the waiver team at MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov.

Please send any questions for future bulletins to Integratedcare@michigan.gov

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



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](#)

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