



MI Health Link

JUNE 2024 BULLETIN



Monthly Spotlight:

Juneteenth

This month is an important marker to celebrate Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day, Freedom Day and

Emancipation day. Juneteenth was celebrated on June 19th and it commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

Juneteenth officially became recognized as a federal holiday in 2021 but has a long history in the United States and dates back to June 19, 1865: the day that Union Army Major General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No. 3, proclaiming that the enslaved African Americans there were free.

“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free,” the order read. “This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor.”

Freedom for the enslaved people of Galveston, Texas, came two-and-a-half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the [Emancipation Proclamation](#), which couldn't be enforced in areas under Confederate control. It also came about two months after Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to the Union Army at Appomattox Court House, Virginia — an event generally considered to be the end of the Civil War.

Juneteenth began as an informal celebration and holiday by locals in Galveston, Texas and has grown into a wider commemoration across the United States. With Juneteenth now part of the mainstream, some activists and [leaders](#) point to the systemic inequities that Black Americans continue to face, such as the racial wealth gap, disproportionate incarceration and longstanding health disparities. One [coalition](#) of groups that represent the interests of Black communities, in particular, is acknowledging the holiday by drawing attention to the [fight for reparations](#). We hope everyone was able to use this holiday to research and reflect on how we can further educate ourselves on the needs of our communities and how we can grow.

Program and Policy Notes

MI Health Link Program, Contractual, Policy Requirements and Highlights

Federal Balance Billing Restrictions

In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.106, Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs), including Full Benefit Dual Eligibles (FBDEs) in Medicare Advantage managed care plans for whom states cover Medicare cost sharing, are protected from billing by any providers for unpaid Medicare Parts A and B cost-sharing. As a dual Medicare-Medicaid program, MI Health Link beneficiaries are included in this protection.

MI Health Link service providers and Integrated Care Organizations (ICOs), must ensure that contracted providers are compliant with all enrollee payment restrictions, including balance billing restrictions. Furthermore, providers contracting with MI Health Link ICOs must also agree to provide enrollees with protection against cost-sharing of any kind, including all deductibles, premiums, coinsurance, and copayments. Providers who inappropriately bill individuals enrolled in MI Health Link may be subject to sanctions.

MDHHS recently distributed a letter to remind Medicaid billing providers of the balance billing prohibition and prevent improper billing of protected Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees in managed care. For more details the letter can be found [here](#).



Beneficiary Health and Welfare:

Tips for Beneficiaries During Medicare Fraud Prevention Week

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is participating in [Medicare Fraud Prevention Week](#) in support of nation-wide efforts to combat Medicare fraud, errors and abuse.

Medicare is a federal health insurance program for people who are 65 or older, certain younger people with disabilities and people with end-stage renal disease. While MDHHS does not oversee Medicare insurance for Michiganders, it is important to share resources that prevent fraud and protect residents.

Fraud impacts Medicare beneficiaries in time, stress and health issues. It also costs families, friends and caregivers in worry and lost work when helping their loved ones recover from Medicare fraud. This awareness event is observed each year during the

week of June 5, also referred to as 6/5, because most people become eligible for Medicare when they turn 65.

“Medicare fraud has a devastating impact on both beneficiaries and the Medicare program,” said Elizabeth Hertel, director. “Through education and outreach, we can work together to prevent Medicare fraud against seniors.”

To combat Medicare fraud in Michigan, MDHHS works with the Michigan Medicare Assistance Program (MMAP) Inc., which manages the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program. The SMP is a free resource designed to help Medicare beneficiaries, their families and caregivers prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud.

“We teach people how to protect themselves from Medicare fraud. By preventing fraud from happening, this program helps individuals and preserves the Medicare program for generations to come,” said Jennifer Page, Executive Director of MMAP, Inc.

Everyone plays a part in the fight against fraud. Take these steps during Medicare Fraud Prevention Week and beyond:

- **Medicare beneficiaries** can monitor their insurance statements to make sure products and services received match what is on the statements. They can request free My Health Care Trackers from their local SMP.
- **Caregivers** can help by being on the lookout for items such as durable medical equipment (like boxes of knee braces) lying around the house that may have been shipped to the beneficiary without their or their doctor’s approval. They can remind their client or loved one to never give out their Medicare number or other personal information over the phone to prevent unauthorized purchases.
- **Families** can help by talking to their loved ones about protecting their Medicare number just as they would a credit card number. Help loved ones create a [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) account to access Medicare statements online or remind them to open and review statements when they come in the mail. Beneficiaries can also register their phone number on “do not call” lists and visit to [Optoutprescreen.com](https://www.optoutprescreen.com) to opt out of mailings.
- **Partners and professionals** can help by sharing SMP information on social media, referring clients and consumers to the SMP and inviting the SMP to speak during a shared event.
- **Health care providers, Care Coordinators, and Case Managers** can help by talking to patients about health care scams such as those related to durable medical equipment and genetic testing schemes. Remind patients that products and services should only be ordered by physicians they regularly see. Needed medical items should never be ordered through TV ads or unsolicited calls.

- **Community members** can help by looking out for older neighbors. When in public, be aware of older individuals purchasing gift cards in large amounts. Encourage older adults to talk to a trusted source about Medicare questions and tell neighbors about the most recent Medicare scams. Community members can also volunteer with a local SMP.

Learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones by joining SMP and their partners. Learn more about Medicare Fraud Prevention Week at [Smpresource.org](https://smpresource.org).

Education and Support Opportunities

Power of Attorney Revocations 101

Tuesday June 25th, 2024 2:00PM

If an agent under a power of attorney is using their authority to commit elder abuse or fraud, a revocation of the document may be an important step in stopping the abuse and preventing further harm. This training will provide practice tips on how to open and handle a power of attorney revocation case from beginning to end, with a client-directed approach. This webinar is intended for those new to this practice area but may also be of help to more experienced practitioners. Click [here](#) to register and learn more.

Fireside Chat on Elder Justice Policy

Thursday July 11th, 2024 1:00PM

Join Bob Blancato, National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition, and Kathy Greenlee, Senior Director of Elder Justice at ADvancing States and former U.S. Assistant Secretary on Aging, for a moderated “fireside chat.” They will discuss the current status of elder justice policy and what they see coming in the near future at the federal level. Explore a wide range of topics, including the first-ever federal regulations for adult protective services, updates on the Elder Justice Act reauthorization, and more. Click [here](#) to register and learn more.

Anxiety and Acceptance

Tuesday July 16th, 2024 1:00PM

This learning opportunity is brought to you by the Michigan Center for Rural Health. Participants will develop awareness of a more mindful approach, and reframe the approach to anxiety from one of control to one of awareness. Click [here](#) to register and learn more.

Documentation in Behavioral Healthcare

Tuesday August 13th, 2024 12:00PM

This learning opportunity is brought to you by Michigan Center for Rural Health. Participants will report an increase in knowledge of documenting the client's episode of care to create a complete record of care, demonstrate medical necessity, and demonstrate the effectiveness of treatment. Click [here](#) to register and learn more.



Resource Link:

MDHHS offers tips to stay healthy during poor air quality days

As the 2024 North American wildfire season continues and warmer weather increases the risk of higher ozone levels, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is providing Michigan residents steps to take to protect themselves from risks related to poor air quality.

“Last summer, Michigan experienced unique levels of poor air quality due to smoke from neighboring Canadian wildfires,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive. “This year, in the event that wildfire smoke reaches Michigan again, we urge residents to be proactive in checking the [Air Quality Index online](#) regularly to determine if there are any actions they should take. Other than the risk of wildfire smoke, it is still helpful to monitor the Air Quality Index for poor air quality due to other hazards such as ozone.”

The [Air Quality Index \(AQI\)](#), which can be found on the [AirNow website](#), is a color-coded way for residents to see what the levels of some types of air pollution are in their area. Higher AQI values indicate there is a higher concentration of pollutants in the air and a need for Michiganders to take steps to protect their health.

Residents can also sign up for alerts through the [EnviroFlash system](#). This subscriber system allows you to choose the area you would like to get alerts for, and it will send them directly to your email or through a text message.

Before a wildfire smoke event, MDHHS recommends you:

- Familiarize yourself with your [forced air HVAC system or your window air conditioning unit](#). If it has a fresh air intake or outdoor air damper, you will need to close it during a smoke event.
- Ensure you have replacement air filters that are rated [MERV-13 or higher](#).
- Consider purchasing a [portable air cleaner](#). If you do not have one, you can make a [do-it-yourself air filter](#).
- Help neighbors and family members make a plan for possible wildfire smoke.
- If you have asthma or other respiratory illnesses, heart disease, diabetes or another health condition that may make you more sensitive to wildfire smoke, talk to your health care provider ahead of time to make a plan.
- Children under the age of 18, pregnant people, outdoor workers and older people (age 60+) are also more at risk. Talk to your health care provider ahead of time to make a plan.
- Check your [local fire risk](#) and read tips from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for [preventing wildfires](#) in Michigan.

During a poor air quality day, take action to protect your health based on the AQI Index. Some recommendations may include:

- Reduce the time you are active outdoors.
- Consider less intense activities that require less physical exertion.
- If ozone levels are unhealthy, schedule outdoor activities for the morning or evening when ozone levels are usually lower.
- In the event of wildfire smoke, avoid activities that create more fine particles indoors, including smoking cigarettes; using gas, propane or wood-burning stoves and furnaces; frying or broiling food; and burning candles or incense.
- In the event of wildfire smoke, [create a clean air room](#). If you can't stay cool at home, the electricity goes out or too much smoke is still getting in your home, it may be best to seek shelter elsewhere. Call Michigan 211 information on cooling centers.

For additional guidance on protecting your health during poor air quality visit the [MDHHS Health and Wildfire webpage](#).



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: If a member requires assessment/redetermination of their HCBS waiver enrollment while in a deeming period and submission of the enrollment in CHAMPS is not able to occur, what steps should be taken?

A: If a member in deeming is functionally eligible for the waiver and are going to begin services, please securely email the waiver inbox (mdhhs-mhl-waiver@michigan.gov) the member's name and ID. When the member regains eligibility and the HCBS enrollment is submitted, email the waiver inbox again so we can adjust the HCBS enrollment accordingly.

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.](#)



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