



MI Health Link

NOVEMBER 2023 BULLETIN



MHL Partner Spotlight: Stephanie Arriaga

Hello- I am Stephanie Arriaga, State of Michigan Account Manager from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Division of Special Programs & Innovation. I work with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) staff to oversee the MI Health Link demonstration.

I have a bachelor's degree in healthcare management and business management from Robert Morris University. I also have my certification as a medical assistant. I have been working at CMS for over 24 years. Before working at CMS, I worked as a manager for a Jewelry store and hostess for the Congress Hotel.

I live in Chicago, IL with my husband and 10-year-old son. We have two older children in college. We recently have become grandparents of a baby boy in September. We enjoy going to visit them in Wisconsin and go on vacations. We are very active with our 10-year-old. He keeps us on our toes with all his sports and school activities.

I am delighted to work with such great people in the MDHHS MI Health Link team. I look forward to our continued collaboration and partnership.

-Stephanie

Program and Policy Notes

MI Health Link Program, Contractual, Policy Requirements and Highlights

Service Animal Stipend

Integrated Care Organizations (ICOs) may provide a \$20 monthly stipend for care and maintenance of a service animal, paid directly to the enrollee. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines service animals as those that are individually

trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. This benefit covers dogs and miniature horses that meet the ADA definition of service animal. The benefit for maintenance costs of a service animal may be authorized if all of the following conditions are met:

- The client is receiving personal care services.
- The client is certified as disabled due to a specific condition such as arthritis, blindness, cerebral palsy, polio, multiple sclerosis, deafness, stroke or spinal cord injury, among others.
- The service animal is trained to meet the specific needs of the client relative to his or her disability.
- The service animal does not have to be professionally trained, and proof of training must not be requested.
- The tasks performed by the service animal are for the client.

Examples of tasks performed by a service animal may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Guiding enrollees who are blind
- Alerting enrollees who are deaf
- Pulling a wheelchair
- Alerting and protecting enrollees with a seizure disorder
- Reminding enrollees with mental illness to take prescribed medications
- Calming enrollees with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack (an enrollee still needs to receive a personal care service to qualify for the monthly stipend for care and maintenance of a service animal)

Additional information and related requirements for this covered benefit can be found in section 7 of the [MI Health Link Minimum Operating Standards](#).

Education and Support Opportunities

MI Health Link Quarterly Training: Safe Aging Through Financial Empowerment

Wednesday January 17th at 1:00PM

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) MI Health Link Team is hosting a training led by Dr. Peter Lichtenberg, director of the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University and one of the country's foremost researchers in safe-guarding older adults from financial exploitation. This program includes research into how older adults make financial decisions, as well as Dr. Lichtenberg's screening tools (OlderAdultNestEgg.com) to help professionals assess client's ability to make informed financial decisions.

If you did not receive an invite and would like to attend, please contact the waiver team at MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov. Thank you!

Chronic Kidney Disease and Discharge Planning Considerations

Tuesday December 5th at 11:30AM

Waltonwood Assisted Living with Dana Rizzo, RN bring this continuing educational opportunity. Chronic kidney disease is a progressive disease with no cure and high morbidity and mortality that occurs commonly in the general adult population, especially in people with diabetes and hypertension. Preservation of kidney function can improve outcomes and can be achieved through non-pharmacological strategies (eg, dietary and lifestyle adjustments) and chronic kidney disease-targeted and kidney disease-specific pharmacological interventions. Managing chronic kidney disease-associated cardiovascular risk is crucial interventions for these patients, given the high burden of complications, associated morbidity and mortality, and the role of non-conventional risk factors in chronic kidney disease. Click [here](#) to register.

Aging & Cognitive Decline in Older Adults Living with HIV

Thursday December 7th at 11:30AM

Brightstar Care and Kate Pierce, LMSW presenting this CEU opportunity. Thanks to improvements in HIV treatment, people living with HIV are living longer than ever before. Almost 50% of people living with HIV in the US are 50 and older with a life expectancy nearing their peers without HIV. However, aging with HIV is not without its challenges, including a much higher risk for cognitive decline. We will discuss why approximately 50% of people living with HIV will experience some form of cognitive decline and focus on the main cause of this decline, HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND). Topics include the signs and risk factors for HAND; similarities and

differences between HAND and Alzheimer's disease; and why accurately diagnosing cognitive change in people living with HIV is so important. Click [here](#) to register.

Trauma, Resilience & Post-traumatic Growth

Monday December 11th at 11:30AM

Lynn Breuer, LMSW, CDP presenting on trauma, resiliency, and post-traumatic growth with this CEU opportunity. Participants in this presentation will be able to identify multiple components of trauma and understand the trauma response in our brains. For more information or to register click [here](#).

Management of Patients Having Same-Day Discharge after Primary Total Hip and Knee Arthroplasty

Tuesday December 12th at 11:30AM

Dana Rizzo, RN sponsored by Waltonwood Senior Living will discuss why same-day surgery for hip and knee arthroplasty has become more common and the role CMS plays. She will cover protocols that ensure patient safety for same-day surgery and the importance of educating patients and caregivers to optimize success in the post-discharge recovery period. She will review the structures of the hip and knee anatomy to give visual support and understanding of the surgical procedure. A person-centered approach to discharge will be discussed to ensure patient success after surgery and safety within the home. For more information or to register click [here](#).

Elderspeak: Effectively Communicating with Older Adults

Wednesday December 6th at 2:00PM

Oasis Senior Advisors is happy to announce that they are sponsoring a live interactive webinar for continuing education credits for Social Workers & Certified Case Managers through Jenerations Health Education. Stephanie Goldstein LBSW of Jenerations Health Education will present *Elderspeak: Effectively Communicating with Older Adults* on Wednesday December 6th, 2023 from 2pm-3:15pm EST/1pm-2:15pm CST.

To register and see full CE program information (including credit information & policies) please click [here](#).



Beneficiary Health and Welfare:

Fraud Alert: Scam Calls Targeting Older Adults

Recent increase in reports of government imposter scam calls, including some claiming to be from Eldercare Locator.

ACL's [Eldercare Locator](#) and [Disability Information & Access Line](#) (DIAL) are trusted resources that help connect older adults and people with disabilities with resources in their community. In recent days, Eldercare Locator has noted a significant increase in people reporting they have been targeted by scam phone calls. This includes reports of:

- Callers claiming to be from “Eldercare,” “Eldercare Locator,” “Social Security,” or “Medicare.”
- Callers asking for personal information such as someone's Social Security number, banking information, or Medicare number — or demanding payment, threatening jail time, or fines.
- Harassment, including repeat calls from the same number.

We hope you will help us get the word out about government imposter scams. Here are some important reminders to share:

1. **The government will never call out of the blue and ask for a Social Security number.**
2. **The government will never ask for payment by gift card or wire transfer.**
3. **Social Security numbers cannot be suspended.**

These general tips can also help everyone protect themselves:

- If you are ever suspicious about a call, **hang up immediately**. Find the organization's contact information on your own (don't use caller ID), and call or email them directly to discuss the situation.
- Never give out your Social Security number, banking information, or Medicare number to anyone who contacts you through unsolicited calls, texts, or emails.

- Never pay someone you do not know well via gift card or wire transfer.
- Never click on an email link or attachment, unless you fully trust the sender.
- Sign up for the [National Do Not Call Registry](#).

Older adults who are targeted by scams and fraud can call the Department of Justice's [National Elder Fraud Hotline](#) at 833-FRAUD-11 (833-372-8311).

In addition, scams and fraud targeting people of any age can be reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) by calling 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357) or visiting reportfraud.ftc.gov.

There are many great resources available to help raise awareness about avoiding scams:

- The Social Security Administration offers a [short video on signs that someone is impersonating the Social Security Administration](#).
- The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau offers resources on common scams that are specifically for [consumers, caregivers, and service providers](#).
- FTC has short videos on [Social Security](#) and [IRS impostor scams](#).
- FTC's "[Pass It On](#)" page has resources on many other types of scams and you can [sign up for FTC scam alerts](#) to stay up to date on new threats.
- The ACL-funded Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program can help you learn about Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse; detect potential fraud, errors, and abuse; and report concerns. Find your local SMP at smpresource.org or call 1-877-808-2468.
- ACL's National Center on Elder Abuse has [many resources](#) on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including a handy one-page "[The Phone Scam: What You Need to Know](#)" flyer.

Connecting with Eldercare Locator and DIAL

The [Eldercare Locator](#) is a nationwide service connecting older adults and their caregivers with trustworthy local support resources. Whether help is needed with services such as meals, home care, or transportation, or a caregiver needs training and education or a well-deserved break from caregiving responsibilities, the Eldercare Locator is there to point that person in the right direction. **Call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116.**

[DIAL](#) helps people with disabilities access COVID-19 vaccinations and tests. DIAL also provides information about essential services such as transportation, housing support, disability rights, and more. **Call DIAL at 888-677-1199.**



Resource Link: Are You the 33%?

One in 3 adults in the U.S. are at risk for kidney disease, early detection can help those at risk successfully treat kidney disease. Recently, MDHHS partnered with the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan to shed light on the prevalence of this disease. Are You the 33%? Campaign is focused on reaching, educating, and empowering Michiganders to take control of their kidney health. Please click [here](#) to learn more about the campaign and to take the quiz on the risk of kidney disease.

Kidney disease is permanent kidney damage or decreased level of kidney function for three months or more. If left untreated, chronic kidney disease can lead to total kidney failure, requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant for survival. More than a million Michigan adults (age 20+) have chronic kidney disease.

What steps can someone take if they are at risk?

After you've taken the quiz and learned if you're at-risk, you can sign up for the email series which will send you emails with all of the information you need on what steps to take next. Below are a few examples:

- Take your quiz results to your doctor and ask to be tested.
- Kidney disease can be detected with two simple tests: the uACR urine test and the eGFR blood test.
- Tell your family and friends about your risk factors and ask for their support.
- Learn about leading a healthy lifestyle through nutrition and physical activity.

For more information on taking care of your kidneys before your appointment with a doctor, visit:

- [Kidney Disease Fact Sheet](#)
- [General CKD Risk Infographic](#)
- [Kidney Disease Information Page](#)
- [NKFM Programs](#)



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: Can a beneficiary be enrolled in Medicaid's Freedom to Work program, and still qualify for MHL?

A: Yes, as long as the member meets all other eligibility requirements for MI Health Link. Click [here](#) for more detailed information.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Member must be over the age of 21
- Resides in the program service area
- Full Medicare coverage in addition to the FTW Medicaid
- Member is not enrolled in hospice services

(Please note a beneficiary may still be required to pay their FTW premiums if enrolled in MHL with FTW even though MHL offers \$0 co-pays.)

***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.

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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