



MI Health Link

OCTOBER 2024 BULLETIN



Monthly Spotlight:

National Veterans and Military Families Month

November is National Veterans and Military Families Month and is a great way to honor these individuals by putting them in the

spotlight for the recognition they deserve. November is already home to Veterans Day which occurs November 11th in addition to the month being dedicated to veterans and their families.

Military Family Appreciation Month was established in 1993 by the Armed Services YMCA, with the U.S. Government recognizing the occasion every year since. Each year the President signs a proclamation declaring November as National Veterans and Military Families Month. This annual proclamation marks the beginning of a month-long celebration of Veterans and Military Families to honor the commitment and sacrifices they've made while serving our country.

Military life imposes unique demands on military members and their families, such as frequent moves, stressors of deployment, and separation from loved ones during holidays and other memorable life events. During these difficult times, they have exhibited exceptional sacrifice, resiliency, and courage, which is why we celebrate them every November for National Veterans and Military Families Month. For more information on the history of this month please click [here](#).

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) also acknowledges the importance of the month and the sacrifices these families endure. In its separate statement, the DoD mentions the strides being made through its Taking Care of Our Service Members and Families initiative for the long-term support of military families. November is National Veterans and Military Families Month, and that means many different things to many different people, including civilians who may be looking to support those who keep us all free, as well as their families who support them.

Resources and Ways To Celebrate

There's plenty to do all month long, [resources to celebrate and support](#). Here are some of the highlights:

- Adoption and Foster Care.
- EFMP & Me.
- Financial Support.
- [Gold Star and Surviving Family Members](#).
- Military and Family Support Centers.
- Parenting Resources.
- Relationship Support.
- Specialty Consultations.
- Transitioning Veterans Consultations.

In addition, there are also plenty of local events going on to help honor Veterans and support their families during National Veterans and Military Family Month. Helping

these families find the resources they deserve is a great way to provide assistance to those who support us all.

The military community is widespread, and chances are you are either in it or know someone who is. Reaching out to show neighborly love throughout this month and throughout the holidays can go a long way toward showing that you've got their backs.

Last year for Veteran's Day, the MI Health Link team had the opportunity to provide an educational training on Veteran's Resources for the community. If you were unable to attend that training, we plan to bring more educational opportunities for veterans in the future and you can also contact our team for additional information.

Enjoy Your National Veterans and Military Families Month Celebration

At the end of the day, no matter what you do to celebrate or honor the military community this month, it's important to remember that this is something needed for much more than a single month. Have a happy National Veterans and Military Families Month, and remember to assist the military community all year long!

Program and Policy Notes

MI Health Link Program, Contractual, Policy Requirements and Highlights

MI Coordinated Health

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has awarded contracts to nine health plans to provide a new benefit plan, MI Coordinated Health, launching Jan. 1, 2026. MI Coordinated Health will be available to individuals enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid in select counties in 2026 before expanding statewide in 2027. MI Coordinated Health is the successor to the MI Health Link program, which ends Dec. 31, 2025. Current MI Health Link enrollees will have the option of moving into MI Coordinated Health with no break in coverage.

“MDHHS remains committed to an improved health care experience for low-income seniors and people with disabilities who are both Medicare and Medicaid enrollees,” said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. “MI Coordinated Health emphasizes

comprehensive care coordination for all members, including home- and community-based services and nursing facility care for qualified enrollees.”

MI Coordinated Health is the result of information gathered from the MI Health Link program combined with a robust stakeholder feedback process going back to 2022, which included surveys and feedback from beneficiaries, advocates, providers and health plans.

The resulting program is driven by five project pillars:

- Fostering integration and continuity.
- Reducing racial disparities.
- Improving care delivery.
- Promoting self-determination.
- Building a culture of quality.

Visit the MDHHS website to learn more about the Highly Integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan. More information about Medicaid is available online at Michigan.gov/Medicaid. Learn more about Medicaid benefits online at Michigan.gov/MIBridges.



Beneficiary Health and Welfare:

Protect, Detect, and Report: Three steps you can take to guard against Medicare Fraud

Every day, Medicare fraud affects people with Medicare and their families across the U.S. – regardless of background. It’s not just the Medicare program that suffers when fraud occurs. Patients may also discover that they can’t get the health care they need.

If someone gets your Medicare number, they can make charges that may exhaust your allotment of benefits. If they charge Medicare for medical visits that you never made or equipment you didn’t purchase, your number could be flagged for overuse,

and doctors may refuse to see you. These are just two examples of how fraud can end up hurting you directly.

Scammers know the ins and outs of the Medicare system and their attempts can be well thought-out. It's not always easy to know when and where fraud is occurring. By remembering some simple but effective tips, you can protect yourself against scams, including identity theft and prescription drug fraud. Remembering to protect, detect, and report fraud helps everyone, including you.

1. Protect

Protecting your personal information is your best line of defense against health care fraud. Treat Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security numbers like credit card numbers. Never give them to a stranger and don't carry your cards unless you need them for appointments. Medicare doesn't call or visit to sell you anything. Outside of a trusted health care setting, never give this information to anyone who asks for it.

2. Detect

No matter how careful you are, you may be targeted for fraud. Always review your Medicare statements closely. Things to look for include charges for something you didn't purchase or receive, duplicate charges, and charges for services not ordered by your doctor. Compare these documents to your personal records and receipts. Recording medical visits and procedures in a journal or on a calendar can help you keep track of what happened at each appointment and make it easier to spot inaccuracies.

3. Report

If you suspect you've been a target of fraud, report it. This can help you and others at risk for fraud. If you have questions about your Medicare statements, call your health care provider.

If you're uncomfortable calling or are not satisfied with the response, help is available through your local Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). SMP volunteers work with Medicare beneficiaries and their families and caregivers to stop health care fraud, errors, and abuse. You can also report suspicious calls and ask general questions through this resource. You can find your local SMP program by calling 1-877-808-2468 or at [SMPresource.org](https://www.smpresource.org).

Suspected fraud also can be reported to 1-800-Medicare or by calling 1-800-HHS-TIPS.

Don't hesitate, if you need help.

Funded by the Administration for Community Living, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the SMP programs provide outreach, counseling, and education by highly trained volunteers in a variety of locations. For free, confidential support, contact your local SMP program.

Education and Support Opportunities

Navigating Difficult Conversations

Wednesday October 30th, 2024 11:30AM

Sometimes, we all have to be the messenger. Whether it is delivering bad news, setting new policies, or correcting someone's bad behavior, navigating these conversations can be challenging. Our communication during these tense situations can affect outcomes in any number of ways. In this workshop, attendees learn anxiety management techniques, strategies for overcoming resistance, and tactics to engage and deliver in a way to mitigate the risk of retaliation. Click [here](#) to register and learn more.

Managing Pain Therapeutically and Safely

Thursday October 31st, 2024 11:30AM

Participants of this training will be able to describe variables and barriers resulting in poor pain management, identify an indication for the use of the different types of medication in pain management, demonstrate a comprehensive pain assessment and assessment in non-verbal patient and discuss the pharmaceuticals of Opioids and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). Click [here](#) to register and learn more.

Webinar on Caregiving, Ethics, and Elder Maltreatment

Wednesday November 6th, 2024 1:00PM

Caregiving for a family member, chosen family, partner, or friend can be very rewarding and meaningful. It can also be challenging. As a loved one's needs increase and caregiving duties expand over time, unexpected physical, emotional, or financial hardships may arise. Within this context, critical ethical questions may surface on topics including health care and financial decision-making; self-

determination, safety, and autonomy; the changing nature of family relationships; and the link between caregiving and abuse. Join the ACL-funded National Center on Elder Abuse and the Los Angeles Caregiver Resource Center for this National Family Caregivers Month webinar exploring these important topics. The webinar will feature a panel discussion on ethical issues in caregiving and practices to prevent mistreatment followed by a Q&A session. Click [here](#) to register and learn more.

Risk Reduction and Dementia

Thursday November 14th, 2024 1:00PM

American Society on Aging brings this learning opportunity on risk reduction and dementia. After attending this session, participants will be able to list 6 or more modifiable risk factors for dementia, recognize strategies needed to reduce the risk of developing dementia, examining environmental influences and lifestyle factors. They will be able to learn about evidence-based approaches to improve overall brain health as well as identify special considerations for high-risk populations. Click [here](#) to register and learn more.



Resource Link:

Resources for Responding to Natural Disasters and Storms

Many regions of the country are currently impacted by severe storms and natural disasters. These events may leave households without heat or electricity, impact accessibility to services and essentials, and cause damage to homes and shelter. For older adults and other at-risk populations, the loss of safe housing and medication can exacerbate health conditions. Legal assistance, elder rights, and aging services providers can mobilize to assist before, during, and in the aftermath of these weather emergencies, utilizing the resources and information below:

Healthcare and Prescriptions

- [Medicare.gov](#) has information about getting care in a natural disaster or emergency, including access to essential treatments, replacing prescriptions or medical equipment, and special enrollment periods. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [has announced resources and flexibilities](#) to assist with the Public Health Emergency in the States of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina.
- The [Emergency Prescription Assistance Program](#) helps people in a federally-identified disaster area who do not have health insurance get the prescription drugs, vaccinations, medical supplies, and equipment that they need.

Housing & Utilities

- [FEMA's Individuals and Households Program](#) provides financial and direct services to eligible individuals and households affected by a disaster, who have uninsured or under-insured necessary expenses and serious needs.
- NCLER's training, [Addressing Housing Issues Facing Older Adults Following a Natural Disaster](#), discusses common housing issues faced by homeowners and renters following a natural disaster, and provides tips for how advocates working with older adults can assist them pre-disaster.

The Red Cross provides [an interactive map](#) to locate open shelters.

Income & Economic Security

- The [Social Security Program Operations Manual System \(POMS\)](#) provides guidance on disaster assistance exclusions.
- Advocates can work with local Social Security field offices and encourage them to take on flexibilities in the time during and after a natural disaster. This may include establishing presumptive good cause for missed appeals deadlines; imposing a moratorium on hearings dismissals; and conducting business and hearings over the telephone.
- Disaster-related scams may be on the rise during and in the aftermath of a disaster. Resources from [FEMA](#), [FTC](#), [CFPB](#), and others provide advocates and older adults with tips to avoid fraud.

Additional Resources

- [Disasterassistance.gov](#)
- [Legal Aid Disaster Resource Center](#)
- [FEMA in Your Language](#)
- [Practicing Law Institute: Climate Disaster Recovery and Community Resilience: The Role of Legal Professionals](#)

- [National Consumer Law Center \(NCLC\)—Disaster Relief & Consumer Protection](#)
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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 learn more about the transition to the HIDE SNP model for the MI Health Link program?

A: Please visit <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/doing-business/providers/highly-integrated-dual-eligible-special-needs-plan> for the most up to date information regarding the new MI Coordinated Health HIDE SNP plan.

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](#)

[Highly Integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan \(HIDE D-SNP\)](#)

[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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