



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

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Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1594-MC

DATE: December 22, 2015

TO: All Iowa Medicaid Providers

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: IA Health Link Transition-Updates

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued its decision on the implementation of the IA Health Link managed care program. The program will now begin on March 1, 2016, instead of January 1, 2016.

In the meantime, Medicaid members can continue to see their current providers. Letters are being mailed to all members to update them on this extension. Members will be able to choose their health plan until February 17, 2016, for coverage beginning March 1, 2016. Members will have until May 18, 2016, to make a change for any reason, and then for “good cause” reasons after that.

Managed Care Organizations

DHS initially contracted with four managed care organizations (MCOs) to administer Governor Branstad’s IA Health Link Program. On December 18, 2015, the contract with WellCare of Iowa was terminated following an appeals process. While further litigation may continue, Iowa Medicaid will tentatively reassign members who were initially assigned to, or who chose WellCare during the enrollment process.

Providers are encouraged to continue working with the MCOs and complete contracts and credentialing requirements. All currently enrolled providers can continue to see Medicaid members and receive current reimbursement through Iowa Medicaid.

Fee-for-Service Coverage During the Transition Period

Iowa Medicaid will reimburse current Fee-for-Service rates to Medicaid-enrolled providers serving members from January 1, 2016, to February 29, 2016, under:

- Marketplace Choice Plan/Iowa Wellness Plan
- Meridian
- Magellan
- MediPASS

MediPASS and Iowa Wellness Plan

MediPASS and Iowa Wellness Plan Patient Manager Agreements will be terminated as announced in Informational Letter [1549](#)¹ at the end of the day on December 31, 2015. Members participating in these programs will remain with the IME under Fee-for-Service until March 1, 2016.

Behavioral Health Services

The contract between DHS and Magellan of Iowa ends December 31, 2015. The IME will be the administrator for behavioral health services beginning January 1, 2016, until the implementation of IA Health Link on March 1, 2016. Providers must enroll with the IME to receive reimbursement by the IME for services rendered during this period.

Upcoming Reimbursement through the new IA Health Link managed care system:

Safe Harbor

Upon implementation of the IA Health Link on March 1, 2016, all providers, no matter whether they are enrolled with the MCOs, will be able to receive the 100 percent of the established rate reimbursement floor until April 1, 2016, as announced in Informational Letter [1589-MC](#)². Providers are encouraged to complete the contracting process with all the MCOs as early as possible.

Prior Authorizations

All Prior Authorizations will continue to be handled by the IME Medical Services Unit until March 1, 2016. After March 1, 2016, all carriers will honor existing prior authorizations, as announced in Informational Letter [1591-MC](#)³ during the first 90 days of the transition. During this 90 day grace period, providers will be able to establish new authorizations following the policies of the member's selected MCO.

Please refer to the dedicated [Medicaid Modernization](#)⁴ webpage for up-to-date information.

If you have any questions please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, or email at IMEproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.

¹ https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1549_TerminationNoticeofManagedCarePatientManagerAgreements2.pdf

² https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1589-MC_ReimbursementRatesforProvidersParticipatingwithManagedCareOrganizations.pdf

³ https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1591-MC_PriorAuthorizationsforProvidersParticipatingwithManagedCareOrganizations.pdf

⁴ <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/MedicaidModernization>