

What is PCMH Plus (PCMH+) and what does it mean for me?

What is PCMH Plus?

PCMH Plus is Connecticut Medicaid/HUSKY's newest experiment to change the way the state pays for health care. 200,000 HUSKY members were enrolled into PCMH Plus this Spring. Eventually, the state's plan is to have every Medicaid and HUSKY member in the program.

PCMH Plus is a "shared savings" model of payment. Under PCMH Plus, if your health providers are able to reduce the costs of your care, their health system gets half the savings. Shared savings is new and hasn't been very effective in other states.

Why is the state doing this?

The goal of the program is to improve the quality of care while controlling costs for the state. Under PCMH Plus, the hope is that health systems will coordinate care better, reduce unnecessary treatments, eliminate duplicate tests, and expand preventive care.

What are the risks if I am in PCMH Plus?

As with the HUSKY managed care organizations in the 1990's, it is possible that the PCMH Plus health systems will save money by denying you or your family the care you need. For example, you may not get referrals to specialists or expensive medications. You may not even hear about all your treatment options.

You may also be moved to another doctor or dropped entirely, depending on your health issues. This has happened in other states to avoid costly patients. If you are currently receiving Intensive Care Management (ICM) support from Community Health Network, you will no longer receive those services if you are enrolled in PCMH Plus.

Do I have to be in the program?

No, you have the right to opt-out. Over a thousand people opted-out of PCMH Plus in the first round. **To learn more about the program and how you can opt-out if you choose, go to PCMHPlusFacts.org or call 203-427-8242.**

Am I in this program? When will I be?

You may already be in the program – about one in four HUSKY members is in PCMH Plus. You may or may not have received a confusing letter notifying you

Get answers

PCMHPlusFacts.org

that you are in the program. Even if you aren't in the program now, you may be soon. The state plans to eventually have everyone in PCMH Plus.

If you usually get your care at one of the following health care systems, you likely are already in PCMH Plus.

Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center	Optimus Health Care
Community Health Center, Inc.	Prospect CT Medical – Waterbury, Manchester, Rockville hospitals
Charter Oak Health Center	St. Vincent's Hospital
Fairhaven Community Health Center	Southwest Community Health Center
First Choice Health Centers– East Hartford, Manchester, Vernon	United Community and Family Services
Generations Family Health Center	Value Care Alliance
Griffin Hospital	Western Connecticut Health Network
Hartford Healthcare Medical Group	Wheeler Clinic
Middlesex Hospital	Yale-New Haven/ Northeast Medical Group

What should I do if I am in this program?

Ask Questions

Ask your doctor about **ALL** your treatment and medication options, not just the less expensive ones. If a treatment or medication isn't working, let them know and ask for an alternative.

The federal Agency for Health Care Quality has an excellent [list of questions](#) you should ask your provider.

- What is the test for?
- How many times have you done this procedure?
- When will I get the results?
- Why do I need this treatment?
- **Are there any alternatives?**
- What are the possible complications?
- Which hospital is best for my needs?
- How do you spell the name of that drug?
- Are there any side effects?
- Will this medicine interact with medicines that I'm already taking?

What happens to my care if I opt-out? Can I still see my doctors?

Nothing will change if you choose to opt-out of PCMH Plus.

It is your choice.

If you opt-out, your services will not change, you can still see any doctors or other providers you choose. You will still get care coordination and other benefits from your doctor's practice. **In fact, if you are getting Intensive Care Management from Community Health Network, you will lose those services unless you opt-out.**

If you opt-out, you may not get some new special services such as help with getting housing or food, but you may get those services anyway. There is no guarantee that you will get these services if you choose to stay in PCMH Plus. If you opt-out, you may not change your mind and re-enter the program until next year.

**If you do nothing,
you will default and stay in PCMH Plus.**