

# Message to Maryland Medicaid providers in prep for January 1, 2014

This note will provide information on what you can expect as we launch the Medicaid expansion on January 1, 2014.

## 1. Conversion of PAC population to full-benefit HealthChoice

We successfully converted over 87,000 individuals from PAC to HealthChoice earlier this month, to be effective January 1, 2014. These individuals already have their new Medicaid ID cards. They will remain with the same managed care organization (MCO), and they will have the opportunity to switch MCOs for the next 90 days.

## 2. New eligibles

Medicaid received the new Medicaid eligibility records from the Maryland Health Connection, and the more recent PAC eligibility determinations, in batch files on December 29, 2013. We successfully loaded both batch files into the MMIS/payment system on December 30, 2013.

These individuals will receive their Medicaid ID card in the mail within the next ten days. They will start in Medicaid fee-for-service. Our enrollment broker will be contacting them soon to choose an MCO. In the meantime, if you receive a call to set up an appointment or fill a prescription for a new Medicaid eligible, please look the patient up on EVS. Medicaid eligibility may be confirmed this way, per usual practices.

In addition, we will receive a daily update file from the Maryland Health Connection from this point forward, to load each day's new eligibility determinations into the MMIS. These individuals will have Medicaid coverage retroactive to the first of the month, per our usual practices, and the EVS will be updated on a daily basis with these new daily records.

If you cannot confirm that a new patient is on Medicaid through EVS, we request that you delay billing the patient for services rendered in January until the end of the month, to allow this individual time to complete his/her Medicaid application. Should these individuals become Medicaid eligible before the end of January, Medicaid will establish retroactive eligibility back to January 1, 2014, and therefore we will pay claims for medically necessary covered services from January 1, 2014 forward.

By holding your bills until the end of January, and then submitting claims to us at the end of the month, you will avoid collecting payments from your patients that you must later refund to these patients, once the Medicaid eligibility process has been completed. In addition, you will not prejudice your ability to eventually send a bill, should the patient not qualify for Medicaid.

If your patients have questions about their Medicaid eligibility, please refer them to Maryland Health Connection at [1-855-642-8572](tel:1-855-642-8572).

As always, we are grateful for your participation in the Medicaid program.