



STATE OF MARYLAND

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**Information Sheet for Gatekeepers and Stakeholders about Changes to the
Care Management Entity (CME) in Maryland
October 1, 2015**

Currently, the Governor's Office for Children, on behalf of the Maryland Children's Cabinet, has a contract with a Care Management Entity (CME) organization - Maryland Choices, LLC - to serve as an entry point for specific populations of children, youth and families with intensive needs for care coordination using a Wraparound delivery model.

As part of a sustainability plan for a population of youth who were served by the CME, the 1915(c) PRTF Waiver, and as part of health care reform in Maryland, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) successfully amended the Maryland Medicaid State Plan to allow for youth who met certain eligibility and financial criteria to be served by regional Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs) that also utilize a similar service delivery model. This program is called Targeted Case Management (TCM).

In order to streamline access to care coordination, the two programs are being integrated. As part of this integration, on October 1, 2015, the CME will suspend enrollments.

What does the suspension of enrollments mean for families who are already being served by Maryland Choices?

Services will continue to be available for eligible children, subject to funding and program requirements. Youth currently enrolled in the CME will continue to be served by the CME throughout the remainder of their eligibility, but there is no guarantee of service delivery in the CME beyond June 30, 2016. Youth with Medicaid will have the choice to be referred to a CCO. Youth with Medicaid who are expected to discharge from the CME after June 30, 2016 may choose to transfer to a CCO immediately. While the CCOs utilize a similar service delivery model, there may be some differences in the services that families are able to access. Youth with private insurance or who are not eligible for Medicaid will continue to work with the CME to identify other natural and formal supports to meet their needs. All families will be offered a choice in deciding the best options that meet their needs.

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The Governor's Office for Children and DHMH's Behavioral Health Administration are working very closely with Maryland Choices to make sure that any families who will be transferred to a CCO will have as smooth a transition as possible.

Where should Gatekeepers send new referrals?

Maryland launched a redesigned Targeted Case Management (TCM) Program for children and youth (provided by the above-referenced CCOs) for eligible Medical Assistance participants in October 2014. At the same time, the State received approval for a new Section 1915i Medicaid State Plan Amendment that authorizes a special benefit package for some youth with serious behavioral health disorders served in the community. The revamped TCM program serves youth in the community using a care coordination model. Youth at the highest level of care coordination (Level III) receive intensive care coordination via the Wraparound service delivery model, and may also receive additional 1915i services if the family meets income eligibility.

TCM through CCOs is available at three levels of care for Medicaid youth who have a behavioral health diagnosis and also meet medical necessity criteria. Youth may also qualify for a package of specialized services through the 1915i if the youth meets medical necessity for Level III TCM and the family income does not exceed 150% of Federal Poverty Level. Financial eligibility is determined by Maryland Medicaid after a complete application is submitted for Level III care coordination.

- Levels I, II, and III of care coordination are currently open for enrollment in almost every County in Maryland (see list provided with CCO referral form).
- As with most other Medicaid programs, there are no limits on the number of youth that can be served in TCM/Care Coordination other than medical necessity.

Access to care coordination through a CCO begins with preliminary eligibility screening and using the distinct referral form. Referral sources are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the eligibility criteria outlined on the CCO referral form for each level of care prior to referring.

- The CCO universal referral form is for any level of care coordination and should be completed and forwarded to the local CCO. If applying for Level III TCM, a Certificate of Need will be required in addition to the referral form. For Level III only - all documents go to the local CCO **AND** the Core Service Agency at the same time.

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If you have questions or would like further information about the integration, you can call Michael Hawkins at the Governor's Office for Children, at 410-402-8305 or e-mail him at mhawkins@maryland.gov.

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