



## Rhode Island's Integrated Care Initiative

There's GOOD NEWS for Rhode Island seniors and adults with disabilities who have both Medicare and Medicaid coverage! The State will be developing a fully integrated benefit package that combines Medicare and Medicaid covered benefits. This new health plan option is a joint effort between the state, the federal government and Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island. To the consumer, the changes will make their experience of using health care services easier to navigate and it has the potential to improve their health care and quality of life.

This new health care option will be available in the spring of 2015 but there are some program changes that have already begun that can help people with dual coverage now.

### Program Summary

- Approximately 30,000 people in RI are eligible for one of the two new options
- Phase 1 is underway. In Phase 1, the Medicaid covered benefits will be managed. This doesn't affect the Medicare covered benefits until 2015. There are two program choices:
  1. Rhody Health Options (the health plan model) and
  2. Connect Care Choice Community Partners (the model based on primary care physician offices).
- Enrollment for Phase 2 will start on April 1, 2015; eligible individuals will receive enrollment letters starting in February 2015.
- Enrollment is voluntary; Consumer can enroll in a program with managed Medicaid benefits but they don't have to enroll in a program that manages the Medicare benefits.

### Goals of the Integrated Care Initiative include:

- Person-centered care
- Coordination of primary and acute care, behavioral health care and long-term services and supports
- Improve or maintain health and quality of life
- Improve transitions of care from the hospital or nursing home back to member's home
- Rebalance the long-term care system to support home and community-based living vs. institutional care
- Align financial and quality incentives to improve care

## Who's Eligible for These New Health Care Options?

Rhode Islanders who have:

- Medicaid *and* Medicare coverage or
- Medicaid coverage due to a disability or chronic condition and receive long-term services and supports

Seventy-nine (79) percent of the individuals eligible for these new programs live at home or in the community (assisted living or group home) and 21 percent live in nursing homes.

## What Are the Current Options for Consumers?

- **Rhody Health Options** is the new health plan option. The State contracts with Neighborhood Health Plan of RI to manage individuals' long-term services and supports and coordinate other covered services. Members who have Medicare, Medicare Advantage or Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage will continue to be enrolled in those programs in Phase 1. Those services will not be affected by enrollment in Neighborhood Health Plan.
- **Connect Care Choice Community Partners** is the new program modeled on the Primary Care Case Management program, Connect Care Choice, which started in 2006. The State contracts with CareLink to coordinate managed long-term services and supports and other covered services. Connect Care Choice *Community Partners* is a Medicaid Fee-for-Service program. Members will continue to go to their Connect Care Choice (CCC) primary care site and doctor and partner with CareLink for help with care transitions, getting social support services in the community and care management. CCC Community Partners adds strength to the Connect Care Choice Program especially for the members who receive long-term services and supports or need additional social services in order to live safely at home or in the community. There are currently 17 primary care practices that participate in the Connect Care Choice Program.
- Some individuals may select **PACE** (Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly) instead of one of the new programs if they have Medicare and Medicaid coverage and meet a "high" or "highest" level of care determination by Medicaid's Long-Term Care Office. Individuals must be 55 years old or older.
- Individuals can remain in **Medicaid Fee-for-Service** for their Medicaid covered services, i.e., long-term services and supports.

Some Medicaid services will continue to be Fee-For-Service and not offered through the health plan. They include: Medicaid dental services, non-emergency transportation, Intensive Behavioral Health Services through a Community Mental Health Center or a BHDDH licensed provider and LTSS for individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

## When will Phase 1 enrollment begin?

Enrollment for Phase 1 started in November 2013. Newly eligible individuals will receive an enrollment letter and FAQ and a choice to enroll in one of the new health care options.

## What is Phase 2?

Phase 2 involves only the health plan model. It's a contract with the state, the federal government and Neighborhood Health Plan of RI. Enrollment for Phase 2 will be phased in over several months. Eligible individuals will receive a letter from EOHHS beginning in February 2015 with an effective enrollment date of April 1, 2015. Members can switch to a different program if they'd like. There is no requirement to lock-in to one program.

Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities will not be enrolled in Phase 2. Individuals with Medicare Advantage do have the option to enroll through an opt-in process.

## For More Information

For Professionals- See [www.eohhs.ri.gov](http://www.eohhs.ri.gov) "Integrated Care"  
For questions about the Integrated Care Initiative,  
email: [integratedcare@ohhs.ri.gov](mailto:integratedcare@ohhs.ri.gov)

For Consumers- Call the Enrollment Help Line at (401) 784-8877  
Monday – Friday, 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Contracted Vendors-

### **Rhody Health Options**

Neighborhood Health Plan of RI [www.nhpri.org](http://www.nhpri.org)

Member Services:

401-459-6601 (local), 1-855-996-4774 (toll-free)

### **Connect Care Choice Community Partners**

CareLink

Member Services:

1-855-654-4067