



# Imagine Different...Achieve Different Coalition

## ***FAST FACTS:*** Medicaid Managed Care for Children in Pennsylvania

### **Overview - HealthChoices**

In Pennsylvania, virtually all children with significant disabilities are eligible for Medicaid, also known as Medical Assistance or MA, regardless of family income. Most children covered by Pennsylvania's Medicaid program are enrolled in managed care organizations (MCOs). (There are a few groups, including children in the "HIPP" program, covered by the state MA program without an MCO.)

Pennsylvania's managed care program serving children is called HealthChoices. HealthChoices includes separate Physical Health MCOs (PH-MCOs) and Behavioral Health MCOs (BH-MCOs).

### **Choosing Your MCO**

You have the right to choose your child's PH-MCO based on the health plans available in your area, and you have the right to switch plans at any time. To choose or change your PH-MCO, visit [www.enrollnow.net](http://www.enrollnow.net) or call 1-800-440-3989 (TTY 1-800-618-4225). Because you must use the PH-MCOs' in-network providers unless none are available, consider which of the PH-MCOs include your child's most important health providers in their network. If you do not choose a PH-MCO, your child will be automatically enrolled in one. For your child's behavioral health needs, you will be enrolled in the BH-MCO that is designated by your county; there is no choice of BH-MCOs.

### **Special Needs Units (SNUs)**

Each Physical Health MCO has a designated Special Needs Unit (SNU) that acts as a care management entity tasked with helping members with special needs navigate the PH-MCO and access needed services, both inside and outside of the MCO. There is no definition of "special need" and any child with a disability should have access to the services of the SNU. Some examples of help that should be provided by the SNU include coordination with the BH-MCO, accessing the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP), accessing and coordinating with Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers, and with county, local, and community-based agencies, and transition assistance from pediatric to adult health care providers.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- [Managed Care in Pennsylvania: A Guide for Parents and Families](#) (PHLP)
- [PH-95: A Guide to Getting Medicaid for a Child With a Disability](#) (PHLP)
- [Fact Sheet: Medicaid Income & Resource Limits](#) (PHLP)
- <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/healthchoices/Pages/HealthChoices.aspx> (DHS)
- [HealthChoices Complaints, Grievances, and Fair Hearings](#) (DHS)
- [Pennsylvania Medicaid Managed Care Organization Directory](#) (DHS)
- [How to Appeal a Service Denial in HealthChoices](#) (PHLP)