



MedStar Family
Choice

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Provider Newsletter

3rd Quarter 2025

In This Issue

DC Health Care Alliance and Immigrant
Children's Programs..... 2

Notice to Providers from DHCF 3

Formulary Updates 4

Compliance Corner 5

HEDIS ® Highlights 6

Access to CRISP PopHealth Analytics:
Well-Child Visits Reporting 7



Changes to the DC Health Care Alliance and Immigrant Children's Programs

Effective October 1, 2025, The Health Care Alliance and the Immigrant Children's Programs will merge into one program and will be named DC Health Care Alliance Program for Adults and Children. Managed Care Plans will no longer be responsible for administering benefits as this new program will be administered by DHCF effective 10/1/25.

DHCF Provider Enrollment Requirements to Participate in the DC Health Care Alliance Program for Adults and Children

- Providers are doctors, hospitals, and pharmacies who are enrolled with DC Medicaid. Providers must complete the enrollment process with the Department of Health Care Finance. To begin click here: DCPDMS.com/Account/Login.

If you are enrolled as a Managed Care only provider and plan to bill for services rendered to Alliance beneficiaries, you must convert your provider account at DCPDMS.com/Account/Login to a standard Medicaid application. As a part of that process, you will be required to complete an EFT application.

- Covered Services for DC Health Care Alliance for Adults and Children enrollees:
 - Inpatient Hospital Care
 - Outpatient medical care (including preventive care)
 - Laboratory services
 - Radiology services
 - Emergency services
 - Prescription drugs
 - Durable Medical Equipment
 - Dental (children only)- effective 10/1/25, dental services will not be a covered benefit for Alliance adults. For the Alliance enrollees who possess a current authorization for dental services extending beyond 9/30/25 must have their prior authorization reissued by Comagine
 - Emergency Transportation
 - The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) will be administering behavioral health services.



- Services NOT Covered for DC Health Care Alliance for Adults and Children enrollees:
 - Home Health
 - Skilled Nursing Facility care
 - Cell and Gene Therapy
 - Hospice
 - Cosmetic procedures/medications
 - Non emergent transportation
 - Podiatry (adults only)
 - Organ transplantation
 - Vision and hearing (adults only)
 - Dental (adults only)
- The changes do not apply to children enrolled in Children and Adolescent Supplemental Security Income Program (CASSIP).
- For Additional Information DHCF created a webpage on the DC Health Care Alliance Program Changes and is available at [DHCFDC.gov/Alliance-Program-Changes](https://dhcfdc.gov/Alliance-Program-Changes).

If you have questions, please contact the MedStar Family Choice DC Provider Customer Services Department, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at **800-261-3371** or mfcfdc-providerrelations@medstar.net.

Notice to Providers from DHCF

Topic: Authorization to Administer Immunizations in Accordance with ACOG, AAP, and AAFP Guidelines

The Director of the District of Columbia Department of Health has issued the following declaration: “As Director of the District of Columbia Department of Health, I designate the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) as ‘competent medical or public health organizations’ pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01 and D.C. Official Code § 7-1653.01.”

What this Means for You:

Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns who are authorized to administer immunizations in the District may now do so in accordance with the immunization guidelines established by the following organizations:

- ACOG: Press release with guidance documents for COVID-19, Flu, and RSV
- AAP: Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule
- AAFP: Press release with recommendations on COVID-19, Flu, and RSV

This designation supports expanded access to immunizations and aligns with best practices in maternal, pediatric, and family health.

If you have any questions regarding this notice or your scope of practice, please email the Board of Pharmacy at **dcbop@dc.gov**. Thank you for your continued commitment to public health in the district.

Update to the MedStar Family Choice DC Formulary

MedStar Family Choice District of Columbia has a Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee that meets quarterly. During our August 2025 meeting, formulary changes were made as listed below for DC Healthy Families. **Bolded** names indicate a brand medication; other listed medications are generic.

These changes became effective October 1, 2025 (Unless indicated otherwise)

Additions:

NONE

Additions with Prior Authorizations:*

NONE

Removals:

Noritate 1% cream

Additions with Prior Authorizations:*

Lurasidone

Managed Drug Limitations & Step Therapy:*

NONE

Drug Formulary updates are also available on the MedStar Family Choice DC Website as follows:

Enrollees visit **[MedStarFamilyChoiceDC.com/enrollees/pharmacy-benefits](https://www.MedStarFamilyChoiceDC.com/enrollees/pharmacy-benefits)**

Providers visit **[MedStarFamilyChoiceDC.com/providers/pharmacy](https://www.MedStarFamilyChoiceDC.com/providers/pharmacy)**



*Detailed Prior Authorization and Step Therapy submission information, including clinical criteria and submission requirements for approval, are available on the MedStar Family Choice DC website in the Prior Authorization and Step Therapy Table.

Compliance Corner

Topic: The OIG Seven Elements of an Effective Compliance Program

The OIG's seven elements of an effective compliance program are essential for small practitioners' offices to ensure compliance with federal health care regulations. Establishing and following a model compliance program will help physicians avoid fraudulent activities and ensure that they are submitting true and accurate claims. The following seven components provide a solid basis upon which a physician practice can create a voluntary compliance program.

These elements include:

- **Written Policies and Procedures** – These should encompass the implementation and operation of the compliance program and processes to reduce risks caused by noncompliance with Federal and State laws.
- **Code of Conduct** – A code of conduct and compliance policies are critical elements of any compliance program.
- **Leadership and Oversight** – Leadership should commit to implementing all seven elements to achieve a successful compliance program.
- **Training** – All employees must receive compliance training to protect both employees and patients.
- **Communication** – Effective communication of compliance obligations to staff members is essential.
- **Auditing and Monitoring** – Establish ongoing evaluation processes involving thorough monitoring and regular reporting.
- **Prompt Response and Corrective Action** – Compliance audits by either internal or external auditors are recommended.



For more information on compliance programs for physicians, see the OIG's Compliance Program Guidance for Individual and Small Group Physician Practices. These elements are designed to help small practitioners' offices create effective health care compliance programs that are integrated into their management practices. With the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, physicians who treat Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries are required to establish a compliance program.



HEDIS® Highlights

Spotlight: Breast Cancer Screening and Mammogram Follow Up

According to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, breast cancer is the second most common cancer for women in the United States. It is important that women are screened for breast cancer and receive appropriate follow up after screening. Appropriate testing and follow up leads to earlier detection before symptoms arise.

Screening

Women at average risk should be screened by having a biennial mammogram for breast cancer if they are between 40-74 years of age.

Follow Up

Women between 40-74 years of age who completed a mammogram screening for breast cancer should have a Breast Imaging and Reporting Data System (BI-RAD) assessment within 14 days of the mammogram. If the BI-RAD assessment result is inconclusive or high-risk appropriate follow-up should be completed within 90 days of the assessment.

Expanded Access to CRISP PopHealth Analytics: Well-Child Visits Reporting

MedStar Family Choice DC is excited to announce that we are expanding our capabilities within the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP) Health Information Exchange (HIE) platform.

CRISP is now leveraging real-time data through its new PopHealth Analytics: Well-Child Visits module, which MedStar Family Choice DC will use to provide our provider partners with greater visibility into non-compliant enrollees and help close care gaps more efficiently.

What's in the Pediatric Health Reports?

This new module includes three dashboards:

- **Well-Child Visits Dashboard** – shows the percentage of children in your panel who received the recommended well-child visits with their PCP during the measurement year
- **Well-Child Visits Historical Prevalence Dashboard** – tracks visit trends over time
- **Preventive Pediatric Healthcare Utilization Dashboard** – highlights broader preventive care use

Together, this partnership will help ensure children receive timely, comprehensive preventive care while supporting our collective goal of improving health outcomes across the District.





MedStar Family Choice

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



If you have questions regarding information in this newsletter, please call us, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at **800-261-3371** (select option 1 or remain on the line).

You can also email us at **mfdc-providerrelations@medstar.net**. This Provider Newsletter is a publication of MedStar Family Choice District of Columbia. Submit new topics for subsequent publication consideration to **mfdc-providerrelations@medstar.net**.

Jocelyn Chisholm Carter, JD, President,
MedStar Family Choice
Erica McClaskey, MD, MS, FAAFP, Chief Medical
Officer and Senior Medical Director,
MedStar Family Choice DC
Kameliya Sapundzhieva, Manager,
Provider Networks
MedStar Family Choice DC

Provider Relations
3007 Tilden Street, NW, POD 3N
Washington, DC 20008
800-261-3371 (toll-free)

MedStarFamilyChoiceDC.com

