

Idaho's Managed Care for Dual Eligibles

Idaho's state Medicaid program and the federal Medicare program are working together to serve seniors and people with disabilities who receive both health insurance programs. Idaho plans to enter into a three-year contract with managed care organizations to offer individuals an inclusive and coordinated approach to provide health care services.

Medicaid is a federal-state partnership program that provides health insurance to very poor people (poverty). Poverty is defined as yearly income of \$10,890 or below for one person and \$14,710 for married couples.

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/11fedreg.pdf>

Medicare is federal health insurance program for people age 65 or over, are under age 65 with certain disabilities, or people of all ages with End-Stage Renal Disease (kidney failure that requires a kidney transplant or a treatment called dialysis).

Dually Eligible: You are able to get services paid for by both insurance programs.

Who: Idaho has about 17, 172 people who are dual eligible. 6, 971 people are aged 65 or older. There are about 1,381 people with developmental disabilities in Idaho who are dually eligible.

Where: Throughout Idaho.

What: People who are dual eligible, low income seniors and people with disabilities are among the most sick and the most poor. Dual eligibles are a high cost population, with spending totaling nearly \$200 billion nationally. Dual eligibles often have chronic conditions, use emergency rooms at a higher rate, and are hospitalized more.

Why: Today people who are dually eligible must try to get the right services at the time they need them, while trying to understand a difficult and confusing service system. Health care providers do not always share information about medical issues and are paid through different government offices. This often leads people to use unnecessary services, have a delay in services, and cost more money than needed.

It is hoped that by combining all services and payment methods, individuals will have improved care coordination among health care providers, improved health outcomes, and lower costs.

When: People who are dually eligible in Idaho may choose to enroll in the new coordinated plans when they become eligible for both programs or during open enrollment in October. By January 1, 2014 all people dually eligible will be enrolled in a coordinated plan.

More Info: The Idaho Department of Health & Welfare:
<http://www.MedicaidLTCManagedCare.dhw.idaho.gov>

Kaiser Family Foundation Fact Sheet:
<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/4091-08.pdf>