

Changes to Medicaid Managed Care Behavioral Health

Medicaid is changing the way people with mental health and substance use disorders (drug and substance use) get what they need to live, go to school, work and be part of the community. The changes are happening first in New York City and, later, in the rest of New York State.

Expanding Behavioral Health as part of Medicaid Managed Care

Mental health and substance use services are sometimes called “**behavioral health**” services.

- Medicaid Managed Care already provides physical health care and some behavioral health care services for people enrolled in a Medicaid Managed Care plan
- Now, Medicaid Managed Care will provide expanded mental health and substance use services

What do these changes mean?

- Both behavioral health care and physical health care will be managed by Medicaid Managed Care plans
- Medicaid Managed Care will focus on behavioral health care to help people with behavioral health needs reach their health and recovery goals
- There will be more behavioral health services in New York’s Medicaid Managed Care plans that Medicaid eligible consumers who qualify can get in the community
- Physicians and other service providers will work together to help people meet their own health and wellness goals

Who are these changes for?

- These services are available only for consumers enrolled in a Medicaid Managed Care plan who are age 21 or over

These changes are not for consumers who:

- Have both Medicaid and Medicare
- Live in a nursing home
- Are in a Managed Long Term Care Plan
- Are under age 21
- Receive services from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

Health and Recovery Plans (HARPs)

A new kind of Medicaid Managed Care plan, called a **Health and Recovery Plan (HARP)**, will provide more services for people with serious mental health and substance use disorders. HARPs will also provide all the same services covered by Medicaid Managed Care plans.

How do HARPs help their enrollees?

- HARPs help enrollees get the services and help they need to live, go to school, work and be part of their community
- HARPs have additional services called Behavioral Health Home and Community Based Services (BH HCBS) to help enrollees find housing, live independently, return to school and graduate, find a job, manage stress, and get help from peers
- HARPs provide additional coordination of services to help enrollees better manage the care they get

How do consumers join a HARP?

- Eligible consumers will be offered the opportunity to join a HARP
- Consumers who have used certain kinds of Medicaid mental health and substance use services in the past may be eligible to join a HARP
- HARP eligible consumers will get a letter telling them that they are eligible and how to enroll

Behavioral Health Home and Community Based Services (BH HCBS)

- BH HCBS are available for consumers who qualify for these services and who are enrolled in a HARP or a Special Needs Plan
- BH HCBS are extra benefits and supports that can help consumers meet their recovery goals
- BH HARP enrollees will have a Health Home Care Manager who will work with them to set up a care plan that may include these BH HCBS

For more information:

Visit the [OMH](https://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/bho/) Website: <https://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/bho/>

OR

Visit the [OASAS](https://www.oasas.ny.gov/) Website: <https://www.oasas.ny.gov/>

OR

Visit the [DOH](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/) Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/