

Changes Are Coming to PA Medicaid Dental Benefit Plans

HERE'S WHAT PROVIDERS NEED TO KNOW

BACKGROUND

Major changes are coming to the Medicaid (also known as Medical Assistance) HealthChoices health plans available across the state on **September 1, 2022**. These changes will not affect CHIP or the Community HealthChoices programs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Our state is updating the contracts they have with insurance/health plans that serve Pennsylvania Medicaid members. Some of the current plans that you may participate with will no longer be available in your region after September 1. If a member does not choose a new plan, one will be automatically assigned to them by the Department of Human Services.

Here is a breakdown of the major changes coming September 1, 2022:

1. Aetna Better Health will no longer be available anywhere in the state;
2. Highmark Wholecare (formerly Gateway) will not be available in the Northwest zone;
3. United Healthcare Community Plan will not be available in the Southwest and Lehigh/Capital zones.

All Medicaid members will have the option to update their health plan over the next 2 months. There are approximately 500,000 members who will need to choose a new plan since their current one will not be available after September 1.

Mailings explaining the new choices have gone out to all Medicaid members. The letter will explain whether the member must choose a new plan, includes a plan comparison chart showing the plans that will be available in the member's area of the state beginning September 1, and instructions for how to change plans. This may mean an increased number of calls to your offices to ask about your participation in the various Medicaid managed care organizations.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR DENTAL PROVIDERS?

As you know, Pennsylvania Medicaid health plans use a separate administrator for the part of the plan that covers dental services. Because of this, patients may call and use their health plan name **OR** their dental carrier name to check on participation. Your front desk staff should be prepared to answer these questions.

FOR EXAMPLE:

A provider in Allegheny County accepts all of the Medicaid plans. They are currently credentialed with Aetna Better Health (Skygen), Highmark Wholecare (Gateway-United Concordia), United Health Community Plan (Skygen), and UPMC for You (Skygen). Effective September 1, only Highmark Wholecare and UPMC will be offered. Three additional plans, AmeriHealth Caritas, Geisinger Health Plan, and Health Partners Plans will now be added.

Dental providers will have to credential with the dental administrators of each of these plans. This would include new credentials for Skygen for AmeriHealth Caritas and Geisinger Health Plan; as well as Avesis for Health Partners Plans.

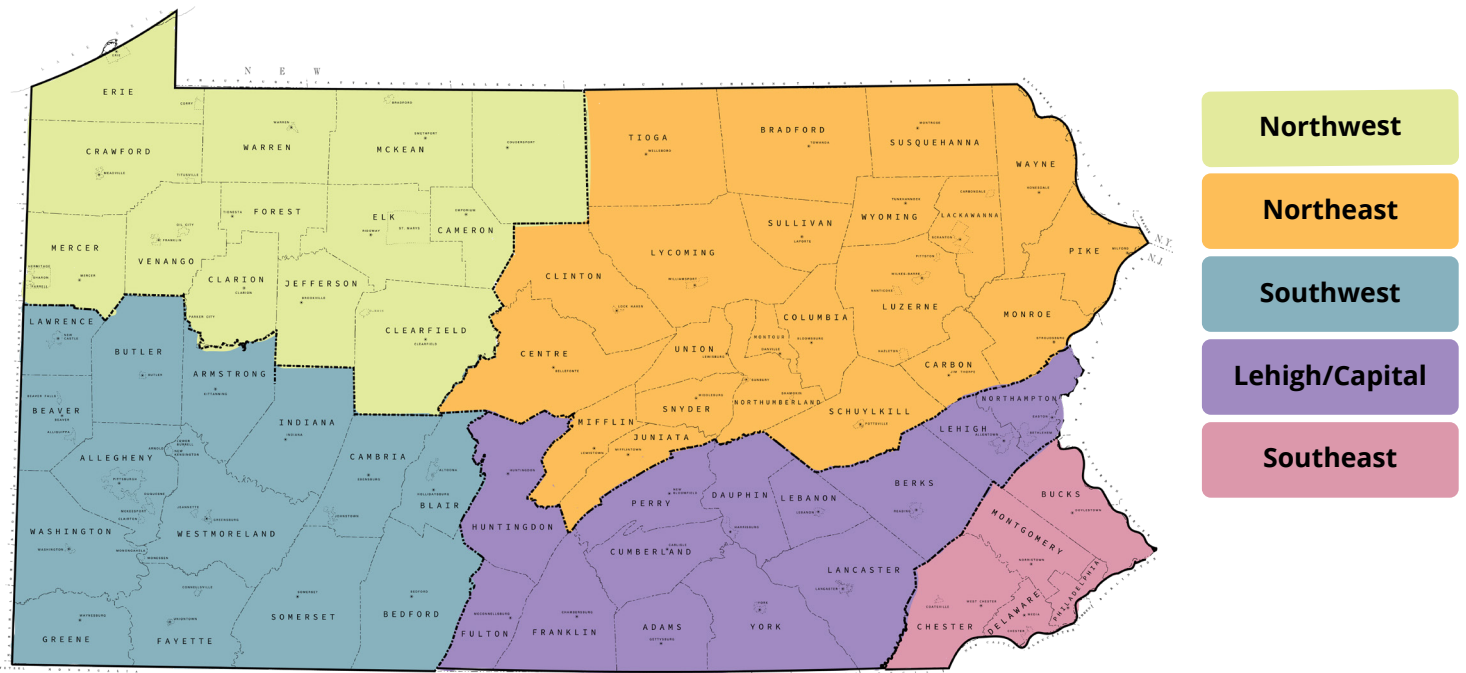
PA HEALTHCHOICES PLANS

Statewide

- AmeriHealth Caritas PA/Keystone First (Skygen)
- Geisinger Health Plan (Skygen)
- Health Partners Plans (Avesis)
- UPMC for You Health Plan (Skygen)

Additional Regional Plans

- Highmark Wholecare (formerly Gateway) (United Concordia)**
- United Healthcare Community Plan (Skygen)*



* Only offered in the Southeast region
 ** Only offered in the Lehigh/Capital and Southwest regions