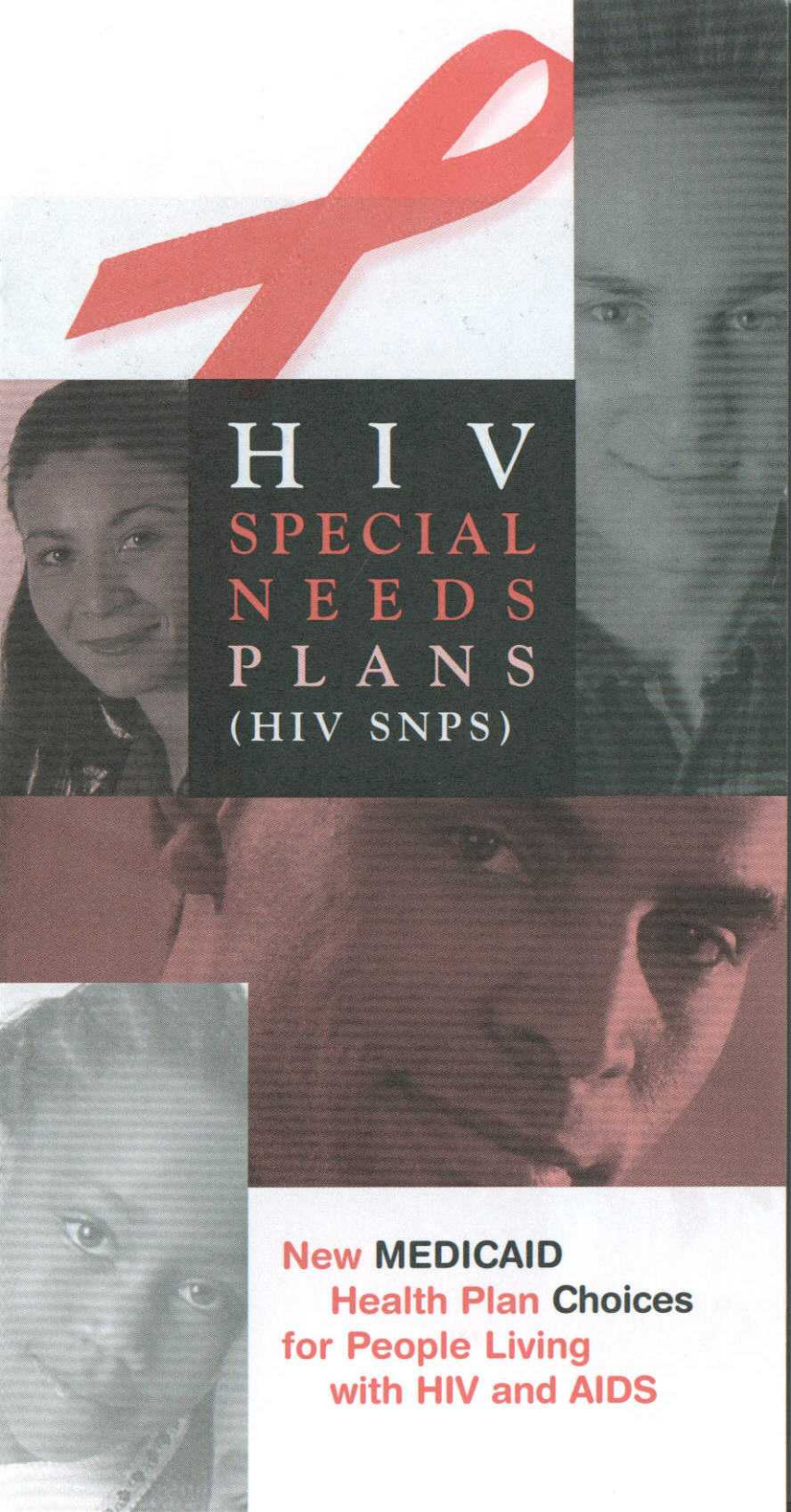


HIV SPECIAL NEEDS PLANS (HIV SNPS)

New MEDICAID Health Plan Choices for People Living with HIV and AIDS

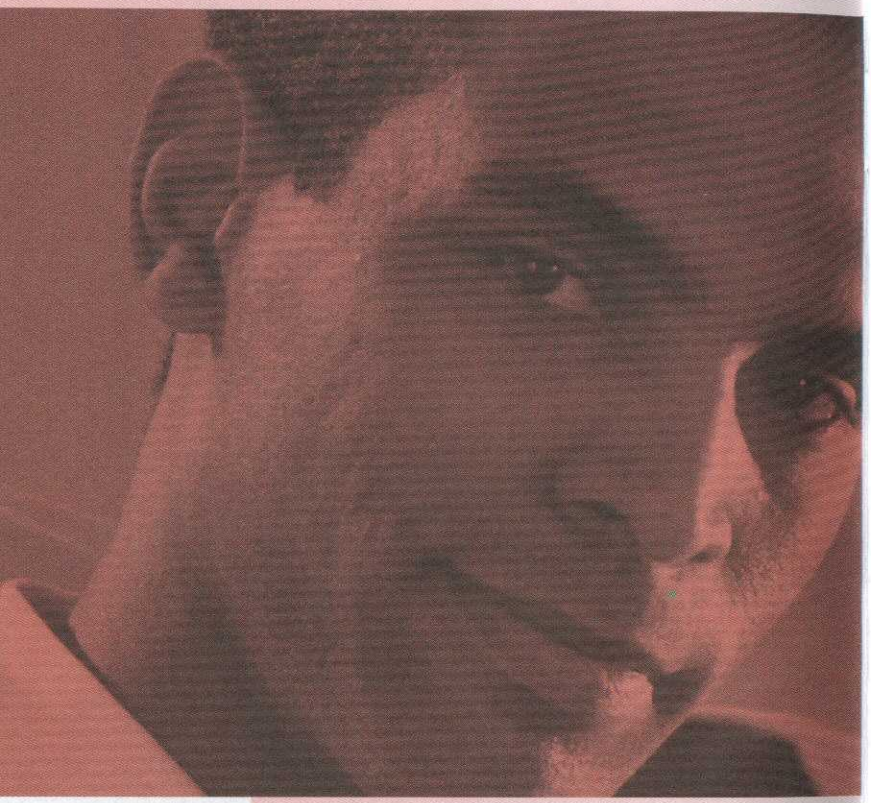


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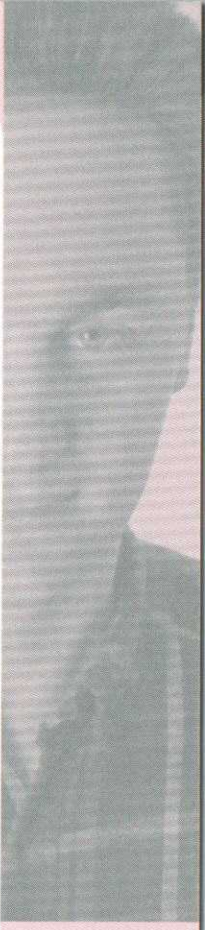
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If you are living with HIV/AIDS and you get Medicaid there is a new way to get the special care you need.





Now you can choose a Special Needs Plan (SNP - sounds like "snip"). An HIV SNP is a health plan that covers special services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

When you join an HIV SNP, you will get:

- ✓ An ***HIV Specialist*** *primary care provider*
- ✓ *HIV* ***case management***
- ✓ ***Information about HIV medications*** *and side-effects*
- ✓ ***Treatment adherence*** *services*
- ✓ *Also* ***other special services***

Why do I need to know about HIV SNPs?

Right now, joining an HIV SNP is voluntary. In the future people with HIV and AIDS on Medicaid may have to choose between a regular managed care plan or an HIV SNP.

It is important to learn about HIV SNPs now, so you can make the right choices for yourself in the future.

What is an HIV Special Needs Plan?

An HIV Special Needs Plan (HIV SNP) is a special health plan for people on Medicaid living with HIV/AIDS and their children up to age 19 whether or not they have HIV or AIDS. The doctors, nurses, and other care providers who participate in HIV SNPs understand the special needs facing people living with HIV/AIDS.





SNP providers understand that you may need help with:

- taking medications
- alcohol and substance abuse problems
- talking to loved ones about HIV.

If you decide to join an HIV SNP, you choose a SNP primary care provider (a doctor or nurse practitioner) who will take care of most of your health care needs. All HIV SNP primary care providers are "HIV specialists." This means that these doctors and nurses have special training to treat people with HIV/AIDS.

Why were HIV SNPs created?

HIV SNPs were created because studies show that when people living with HIV/AIDS get their health care from providers experienced in HIV care, they often live longer, healthier lives.



What services will I get in an HIV SNP?

You will get **all the same services that you always got with regular Medicaid AND new services important to people living with HIV/AIDS.**

What's the same?

You will get all the same services you got in regular Medicaid - such as: doctor visits, physical exams and check-ups, over-the-counter and prescription drugs, hospital care, emergency room services, lab tests, mental health and drug/alcohol abuse services.

What's new?

- **Coordinated** care from primary care providers (doctors and nurses) who are HIV specialists.
- **Coordinated** special services that are important for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Most members on SSI will get all substance abuse and mental health services from the HIV SNP.

What are some of the special coordinated services?

- **HIV SNP Case Management:** A case manager helps put services together for you. A case manager can help you and your family get counseling, public benefits, drug treatment, legal help, and other services. A case manager can help you make medical appointments and manage your care.

- **Treatment Adherence Services:** Patients with HIV/AIDS often take many different medicines and use different treatments. It's important to take medicine correctly to keep yourself as healthy as possible. Treatment adherence services help you to remember and keep track of your medications, deal with side-effects from your medications, and give you advice about new medicines and treatments.



- **HIV Prevention and Risk-Reduction Education:** HIV SNPs also give you important education. This education can include counseling, reading materials, and health education classes. This education can help you reduce the chance that you may get new infections or infect others, by letting you know:
- Where to get free male and female condoms;
- Where to get clean needles and syringes and more important, where to get counseling services to help stop injection drug use; and
- Ways to talk to your partner about HIV risk.

HIV SNPs are responsible for helping to coordinate:

- all medical services;
- services not covered by regular Medicaid, but which support wellness (like, psycho-social case management, housing, counseling, peer support, legal assistance, etc.);
- special programs for substance abusers, homeless people, and families affected by HIV/AIDS; and
- services which are "carved out" or paid for through fee for service Medicaid, like long-term care and hospice.

Additionally, all HIV SNPs will be required to meet the State Department of Health, AIDS Institute quality standards for HIV/AIDS care.

Who can join an HIV SNP?

If you are on Medicaid and have tested positive for HIV, you can join one of the several HIV SNPs. You can also enroll your children (up to age 19) even if your children do not have HIV or AIDS.

How many HIV SNPs are there?

There are several HIV SNP health plans available. Each plan has its own group of doctors, providers, and hospitals. If you want to join an HIV SNP, you can choose the one in which your current doctor belongs, is closest to your home, or has the services you need most.
You can get more information about all the HIV SNPs by calling **New York Medicaid CHOICE at 1-800-505-5678.**



If I choose to join an HIV SNP, can I keep my regular doctor?

Yes, but only if your doctor belongs to the HIV SNP that you choose. If you want to keep your doctor, ask your doctor if he or she belongs to an HIV Special Needs Plan or call **New York Medicaid CHOICE** and ask if your doctor is in any HIV SNP.

Can I still use the emergency room?

Yes. You should go to the emergency room only when there is a real emergency. Do not use it for routine care. Your primary care provider can treat problems that are not emergencies.

Do I need to keep my Medicaid card?

Yes. You will need your Medicaid Benefit card after you join an HIV SNP. Use your Medicaid card to get your medicine at the drugstore and for other Medicaid services that may not be covered by your health plan.

Do I have to join an HIV SNP?

No. Right now if you have HIV/AIDS you do not have to join any health plan. If you do not join a health plan, you will keep getting health care the way you do now. However, **in the future this may change, and you may have to choose either a regular Medicaid health plan or an HIV SNP.**

Remember that if you belong to a regular managed care plan, you can change to an HIV SNP. Just call *New York Medicaid CHOICE 1-800-505-5678.*

How do I Choose an HIV SNP?

You should choose an HIV SNP with the doctors, clinics and other special services that are right for you.

To choose an HIV SNP follow these steps:

Talk to Your Doctor

If your doctor is someone you want to keep seeing, make sure to join an HIV SNP that works with your doctor. If you don't have a doctor, **New York Medicaid CHOICE** can help you choose a plan that works with health care providers in your area.

Talk to a HelpLine Counselor

New York Medicaid CHOICE HelpLine counselors can answer your questions about choosing a doctor and choosing a plan that serves your area. They can also send you a packet with enrollment information. Call the **New York Medicaid CHOICE HelpLine at 1-800-505-5678.** Everything you say is kept confidential.

Fill out and sign the enrollment forms

Mail the forms to **New York Medicaid CHOICE** in the enclosed envelope. You don't need a stamp. Keep getting your health care the way you do now, until you get a letter that tells you when you are enrolled in the HIV SNP.

- Before your enrollment is complete, you will need to show your health plan that you are HIV-infected. ***This information will be kept confidential.***
- If you are transferring from another managed care plan, you must fill out an enrollment and a disenrollment form, call **New York Medicaid CHOICE** and ask for a transfer packet.

If you get Medicaid and have tested positive for HIV, think about joining an HIV SNP. If you have questions or want to join an HIV SNP call **New York Medicaid CHOICE,** Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 8:00 pm; and Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at **1-800-505-5678.** For people with hearing problems, please call the TTY/TDD number, which is 1-888-329-1541.



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Call the New York Medicaid CHOICE Helpline
1-800-505-5678

Për të kërkuar ndihmë, telefononi në numrin e mësipërm
Albanian

للحصول على مساعده يرجى الاتصال بالرقم الوارد أعلاه.
Arabic

Pour obtenir de l'aide, appeler le numéro ci-dessus
French

לקבלת עזרה, צלצל למספר המופיע לעיל
Hebrew

Prosimy dzwonić na powyższy numer, aby uzyskać pomoc
Polish

Xin gọi số điện thoại ghi trên để được trợ giúp
Vietnamese

मदद के लिए ऊपर दिये गये नम्बर पर टेलीफोन कीजिये ।
Hindi

Per assistenza chiamare il numero suindicato.
Italian

도움이 필요하시면 상기번호로 전화하십시오
Korean

ໂທຫາສັບ ຕາມເລກໝາຍຂ້າງເທິງນີ້ ຖ້າຕ້ອງການຄວາມຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອ
Laotian

خدمات کے لئے مندرجہ بالا نمبر پر فون کریں
Urdu

פֿאר מער אינפֿארמאציע, זיצט אַזוי גוט אוך קלינגט אויף דעם טעלעפֿאָן נומער אָנגעוויזן אויבן.
Yiddish

Llame al (1-888-329-1467) si necesita asistencia
Spanish

За помощью обращайтесь по телефону 1-888-329-1538
Russian

請撥 (1-888-329-1537) 獲得協助
Chinese

Telefone nimewo 1-888-329-1539, si-w bezwen yo ede-w.
Haitian Creole

HIV Special Needs Plans are a program of

New York Medicaid CHOICE
P.O. Box 5009
New York, New York 10274-5009

New York Medicaid CHOICE is a program of the State of New York and the City of New York. **New York Medicaid CHOICE** is operated by MAXIMUS.

For Medicaid recipients interested in this program who live outside of New York City, call 1-888-ENROLLS or 1-888-367-6557 for information.