

Texas Medicaid Recipients Brace For Massive Change To Managed Care System

The shift to managed care for Medicaid recipients in Southern Texas will be very complicated for the state's underprivileged children, seniors and disabled residents. Rep. Richard Pena Raymond, D-Laredo, who is opposed to the change, has been fighting it for years due to the risk it would pose to people who need health care and can't get it.

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CMS: No Premiums For Florida's Medicaid Recipients

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rejected proposals from Florida's lawmakers to charge Medicaid recipients \$10 monthly premiums and \$100 copayments on emergency room visits. In a letter to state lawmakers, the CMS stated that the plan violates federal requirements that are designed to protect poor people from additional costs. This latest setback is part of a complete Medicaid overhaul, still under review, that would move the state's health care program to a managed care system—a privatization approach that has yet to be proven effective in other states that have tried it.

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Texas Pharmacists Are Worried About Managed Care--With Good Reason

On March 1, Medicaid recipients in Texas will be forced into a managed care system and pharmacists are bracing for the worst. This approach toward health care for the state's most vulnerable citizens will be disastrous for the patients and devastating to the pharmacies that serve them, especially in rural areas of the state. Managed care, as it is currently being implemented, will result in many community pharmacies closing their doors, which means less access for those who need it most and an alarming spike in unemployment.

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Kentucky Lawmakers Are Losing Patience With Medicaid Managed Care Firms

Lawmakers in Kentucky are not happy with the mounting complaints they hear daily from Medicaid health care providers, pharmacists and patients regarding the managed care companies hired to run most of the state Medicaid program. Chronically late payments, mishandled claims, confusion over new rules are the crux of the problems. Lawmakers want to know how long state Medicaid officials are going let providers and patients struggle before taking action.

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Florida Seeks Approval For Pharmacists To Give Vaccinations

In an effort to provide seniors with better access to state recommended vaccines, the Florida Senate and House are reviewing bills that, if approved, will authorize trained pharmacists to administer vaccinations for pneumonia and shingles. Despite the fact that Florida pharmacists have been able to administer flu shots for several years, the state is sorely behind the times as most states already offer this service to their seniors.

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