

INTERACT FOR HEALTH

A Catalyst for Health and Wellness

The New Healthcare Law and You

How will the new healthcare law affect you if you have a **MEDICARE OR MEDICAID AND A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER?**

The **Affordable Care Act (ACA)** became law in March 2010. Today, parts of the law are already in place. Other parts will be phased in between now and 2014. Some changes are just for people with *substance use disorders* (words in italics defined below), but many are broad changes that benefit the mental and physical health of all Americans.

The ACA does not require you to change insurance or providers. It also does not reduce your Medicaid or Medicare benefits.

IF YOU HAVE MEDICARE ...

BEGINNING NOW

- The ACA does not cut the traditional Medicare Part A and B benefits. This includes doctor's visits, hospital care and medical equipment. If you have a Medicare Advantage (Part C) plan, your insurer might offer extra benefits that Parts A and B do not cover, such as eyeglasses. Your Part C insurer can change these extra benefits if it chooses to.
- Medicare covers 100% of the cost of many *preventive services* such as alcohol abuse screening and counseling, and certain programs to help people quit smoking.
- The "doughnut hole," or time when Medicare does not cover any of your drug costs, will be phased out. In 2013, while you are in this coverage gap you will get 53% off

brand-name drugs and 14% off generic drugs. Your drug discounts will increase each year until 2020, when you will get 75% off all your prescription drugs.

BEGINNING IN 2014

- Medicare will cover more drugs to help you be healthier, such as drugs to help you stop smoking.
- Medicare will pay for covered SUD services at the same rate it pays for physical health services.
- Your co-payments for Medicare-covered substance abuse services will be reduced from 50% to 20% (a result of the 2008 Patient and Providers Act).

IF YOU HAVE MEDICAID ...

BEGINNING IN 2014

- If you make 138% or less of the Federal Poverty Level (in 2013, \$15,857 for a single person), are younger than 65 and your state implements the Medicaid expansion, you will get Medicaid. This will be based only on income and not on whether you are pregnant or disabled. As a result, Medicaid will be more available.
 - If you have Medicaid now, the ACA will not change your benefits. But your state may change your Medicaid plan.
 - If you will be new to Medicaid in 2014, you likely will get a "benchmark plan." These plans may cover fewer services than existing Medicaid plans. But they must cover at least essential health benefits including

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Substance Use Disorder: A condition in which a person abuses or is addicted to alcohol or other drugs. A person suffering from a substance use disorder may have problems with physical health, working, relating to others and daily functioning.

Preventive Services: Healthcare services aimed at preventing or finding early mental and physical health problems. These include annual wellness exams, flu shots, diabetes screenings and certain cancer screenings. Medicare and Medicaid started covering 100% of the cost of these services this year.

How will the new healthcare law affect you if you have a **Substance Use Disorder and Medicare or Medicaid?** (cont'd)

SUD services. What type and amount of services will depend on your state.

- Medicaid will cover more drugs to help you stay well, such as drugs to help you stop smoking.
- Medicaid will pay for covered SUD services at the same rate it pays for physical health services.

For information:

- Ohio Medicaid: www.jfs.ohio.gov/ohp
- Kentucky Medicaid: www.chfs.ky.gov/dms
- Indiana Medicaid: www.indianamedicaid.com



IF YOU HAVE BOTH MEDICARE AND MEDICAID ...

- The ACA requires Medicare and Medicaid to work together to make it easier for your doctors, hospitals and others to keep you healthy. It also could help you stay at home longer rather than live in a nursing home.

FOR EVERYONE ...

BEGINNING IN 2014

- You must be insured unless you:
 - Have a financial hardship
 - Have no insurance for less than three months
 - Have a known religious objection
 - Are a member of an Indian tribe
- If you and your family remain uninsured you could be taxed the greater of:
 - **In 2014:** \$95 per person or 1% of household income
 - **In 2015:** \$325 per person or 2% of household income
 - **In 2016 and later:** \$695 per person or 2.5% of household income
- If you cannot afford insurance now, or insurers will not sell it to you, please see our publication about how the ACA is working to change this. For example:
 - You cannot be denied health insurance because of a health problem
 - If you make less than 400% of the FPL (in 2013, \$45,960 for a single person and \$94,200 for a family of four), you will get a subsidy to help you afford your health insurance premiums.

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This is part of a series about the new health care law — the Affordable Care Act. For more information, visit

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Interact for Health, formerly The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, improves the health of people in the Cincinnati region by being a catalyst for health and wellness. We accomplish our mission by promoting healthy living through grants, education and policy. Interact for Health is an independent nonprofit that serves 20 counties in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.

