

New York State is working with the federal government to change the way Medicaid provides services to its members. This program, called Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP), will help health care providers work together to get everyone the services they need. Working together means sharing healthcare information with all of the providers seen by a Medicaid beneficiary. This information sharing will help health care providers coordinate care.

The New York State (NYS) Medicaid program will send out a letter to all Medicaid members to explain DSRIP and their rights around the sharing of information. The letter will explain the benefits of allowing their health information to be shared.

Some of the benefits include:

- New community health services that are easier to use and that meet your patient's needs better.
- Doctors and hospitals will be communicating better. Support from community health workers or care managers. This will help you manage your patient's health and get the care they need.
- People who work for the new organization of community providers (called a Performing Provider System) may reach out to your patients about special health care services, such as help for diabetes or high blood pressure.

The NYS Medicaid program will share information with local Performing Provider Systems (PPS) about the care and treatment patients receive. The PPS is made up of the doctors, hospitals and community providers who are already caring for patients. Sharing this health information can help doctors and health care teams give better care.

Medicaid members have already given permission for NYS Medicaid, their providers and their health plan to access information to help them get care easier, to pay for health care, and for health care operations. This opt out process will not change any of that permission. Patients' privacy is very important to us, and patients must be able to control how their personal information is used.

Medicaid members will have a voice in how their health information is shared and can opt-out of sharing their data by telling the state, either by phone or by completing the Form to Opt Out which they will receive in the mail. If the Medicaid member signs the form, the state will not be able to share that individual's Medicaid health information with the PPSs.

Providers are in an important position to be able to help their patients understand the opt-out process. You can remind them that NYS has only shared member contact information with your local DSRIP PPS. **The opt out form allows patients to tell Medicaid that it cannot share their health information with local DSRIP PPSs, and prevents the sharing of any further information, data and any personal Protected Health Information held by Medicaid with a PPS.** If a member decides that they do not want Medicaid to share their information, **they will not lose any of their Medicaid benefits.** They can still see their own doctors, however, they may not be able to get the special services that the PPS offers.