



Maryland Redetermination

MedStar Family Choice cares about your health. Yearly physical exams are important to keep you and your family healthy. Your health and wellness are so important to MedStar Family Choice that we offer gift cards to eligible members who get their screenings (tests) and immunizations (shots) each year! Without screenings, you may not know of health issues that could get worse without treatment.

Do you or a family member currently have health insurance through Medicaid or the Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP)?



Medicaid renewals will not be automatic this year. Check in to make sure your contact information is up to date so that you can receive important notices on any changes to your health insurance. If you have already received your notice, don’t wait - complete your renewal today! You’ll have 45 days to respond. Start by logging in to your account at

marylandhealthconnection.gov/checkin/. Checkin or call **855-642-8572**.

Our dedicated Outreach department is here to help you and your family with scheduling any of the following appointments with your doctor:

- Yearly physicals
- Well-child visits
- Lead testing
- Mammograms
- Pap smears
- Diabetic testing



IN THIS ISSUE

Keep up on your winter wellness..... 2

Flu shots are very important.....3

Flu Facts/Stop Germs3

Understand fraud, waste, and abuse..... 4

Nurse advice line available 24/7..... 4

Telehealth and video visits.....5

Online check-in is available at even more MedStar Health Urgent Care locations.....6

Need help managing your health problems?..... 6

Denial of Payment Letters.....7

MedStar Family Choice Facebook Group..... 8

Free Interpreter Services.....8

Contact us anytime you need help..... 9

Earn gift cards with the Momma & Me Program.....10

Change your address or Medicaid information.....11

Pregnancy and you.....11

Protecting the privacy of your health information.....14

MedStar Family Choice survey results.....16

Keep up on your winter wellness and earn giftcards!

MedStar Family Choice members could receive up to \$250 for getting all of your baby's well-child visits within 30 months of age along with a lead test, \$100 for your first prenatal care visit during the first three months of pregnancy, \$50 for your first postpartum visit within 21 to 56 days of delivery, \$25 for completing well-child visits for ages 3 to 11, \$50 for completing a mammogram if 50 or older, \$50 for adolescent physicals (ages 12 to 21), up to \$250 for diabetic lab tests, eye exams, and lowering your A1C, and more!

For your convenience, MedStar Family Choice also offers mobile and in-home health services to assist you with getting the care you need. Please contact us for assistance.

Learn more at [MedStarFamilyChoice.com](https://www.MedStarFamilyChoice.com).



Flu shots are very important

The typical flu season occurs from fall to early spring. Influenza (commonly known as the flu) is a potentially serious disease. It can sometimes lead to hospitalization or even death. A flu shot (vaccine) is the most effective way to reduce the risk of getting the flu.*

You need a flu shot every year because the flu virus changes and adapts. Flu vaccines (shots) are offered in most doctor's offices, urgent care clinics, health departments, pharmacies, and even in some schools via School-Based Health Centers. Protect yourself and your family by getting your flu shots early. MedStar Family Choice members can receive a flu shot at no cost!

To schedule your flu shot, please contact your primary care physician (PCP) or visit any participating pharmacy. For additional information or assistance, please contact MedStar Family Choice Member Services at **888-404-3549**.

Most people older than 6 months of age should be vaccinated. However, there are some rare exceptions for people who should not get the flu shot:

- People with flu symptoms or suspected with the flu virus.
- People with severe, life-threatening allergies to the flu vaccine or any ingredient in the vaccine such as eggs, gelatin, antibiotics, or other ingredients.

Even with the flu shot, you may get a cold or other virus during flu season. If you cannot visit your primary care doctor, MedStar Family Choice members can reach a doctor live using MedStar eVisit or by calling the Nurse Advice Line at **855-210-6204**. To learn more or sign up for MedStar eVisit, please visit **MedStarFamilyChoice.com/eVisit**.

*Source: [CDC.gov/Flu/Prevent/Keyfacts.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/keyfacts.htm)

Did you know?

- You can spread the flu before you know you are sick. Most people are contagious at least one day before having symptoms, and five to seven days after becoming sick.
- The time from when a person is exposed to the flu virus to when symptoms begin is about one to four days, with an average of about two days.
- People with certain chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), pregnant women, and young children are especially at risk for flu-related complications.

Use good habits to help stop germs

Want to stop cold and flu in their tracks?

- **Avoid close contact.**
- **Stay home when you are sick.**
- **Cover your mouth and nose.**
- **Clean your hands.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.**
- **Practice other good health habits.**

Source: [CDC.gov/Flu/Protect/Habits.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/habits.htm)

Understand fraud, waste, and abuse

While MedStar Family Choice looks for possible fraud, waste, and abuse (FWA) activities, we need your help to stop fraud, waste, and abuse. Be aware of situations could potentially be considered FWA such as receiving a bill for services that were expected to be covered by MFC/Medicaid, learning of a claim submitted by a provider you did not see, having a provider order tests, procedures or medications that may be unnecessary or duplicates, or receiving phone calls or emails from providers you have not seen to confirm appointments or to let you know equipment/medications are ready for pick-up or delivery. Please be careful in responding to unsolicited emails or clicking on social media ads that offer products or services. Before providing your personal information and MFC #, you may consider contacting MFC to verify that this is a legitimate service, and that the provider is in our network. Also remember that allowing a friend or family member to use your MFC card to obtain services is Medicaid Fraud, which is illegal.

If you know of a situation that may involve fraud and abuse, please report it immediately by calling our Compliance Director at **410-933-2283**, Member Services at **888-404-3549** or the MedStar Health Corporate Integrity Hotline at **877-811-3411**. You may also call the Maryland Department of Health Office of the Inspector General toll-free at **866-770-7175** or report online at https://health.maryland.gov/oig/Pages/Report_Fraud.aspx. MedStar Family Choice has a strict non-retaliation policy, which means filing a report will not affect the services you receive, or how you are treated by MedStar Family Choice Maryland.

Nurse advice line available 24/7

Feeling sick or need medical advice? A registered nurse is just a phone call away. The Nurse Advice Line (**855-210-6204**) is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Call and talk to a registered nurse to help you figure out what to do or where to go based on your symptoms.
- The nurse can provide you with nearby urgent care locations if need be.

Emergency Care is for when you need care right away for a serious, sudden injury or illness. Therefore, non-emergent care can take longer in an Emergency Room.



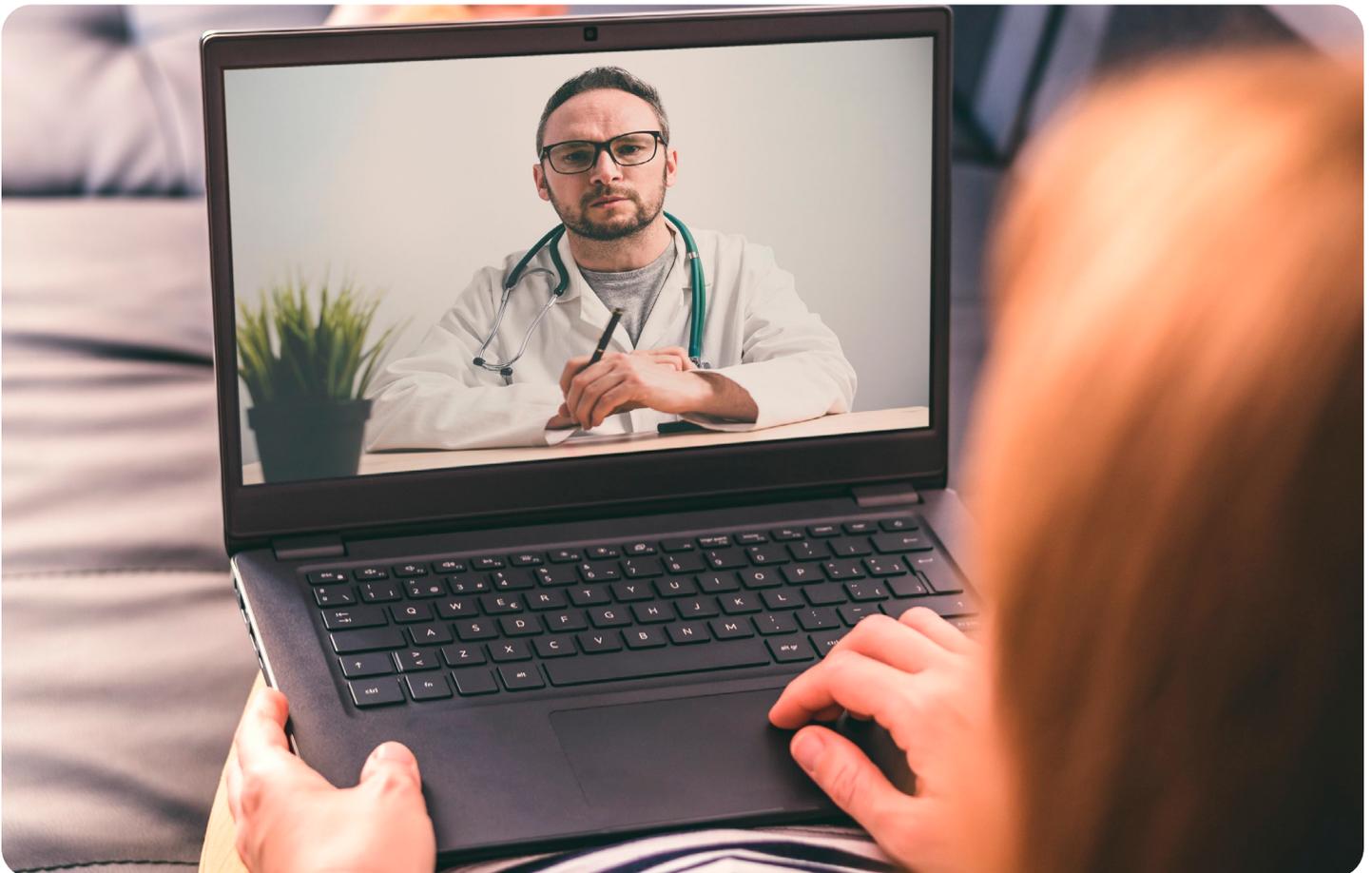
See your doctor via telehealth and video visits

To assist with any healthcare needs, many MedStar Health and MedStar Family Choice providers are offering telehealth options.

All MedStar Health providers can now see patients through online video visits. MedStar Health Video Visits are like an in-person office visit, except you see your provider using a tablet, smartphone, or computer from your own home.

If you need to see your doctor or a specialist, call to see if they offer telehealth or MedStar Health Video Visits. If this type of appointment is appropriate, you can schedule a video visit the same way you would an in-person office visit.

Note: To have a video visit with your provider, you will need a smartphone or a computer and/or laptop with a camera and microphone. If you want more information to help prepare for your visit, or if you have trouble connecting, you can visit our MedStar Health Video Visits patient experience website at **MyVideoVisit.MedStarHealth.org**.



Online check-in is available at even more MedStar Health Urgent Care locations

MedStar Health Urgent Care patients now can have more control of their experience through online check-in, which allows patients to reserve their spot in line. The convenient, easy-to-use service is now offered at all 33 MedStar Health Urgent Care sites in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia, based on a successful pilot program.

The online check-in program allows patients to view current wait times online and choose an arrival time that works for them, including “next available.” They are then able to wait at home, at work, or wherever they are most comfortable. The online check-in system lets consumers see exactly how many people are in line ahead of them, so they can gauge how soon they will be seen. In most cases, patients who check in online have shorter waits than patients who walk in.



Need help managing your health problems?

We understand that some health problems are hard to manage on your own. MedStar Family Choice has nurses and social workers who can help you take better control of your health conditions. We also have a nurse who can help you if you have a high-risk pregnancy.

You can learn more about our Complex Case Management and other Case Management programs on our website at [MedStarFamilyChoice.com](https://www.MedStarFamilyChoice.com). If you would like to join one of our programs, you can call **410-933-2200, option 2, option 2**

Denial of Payment Letters

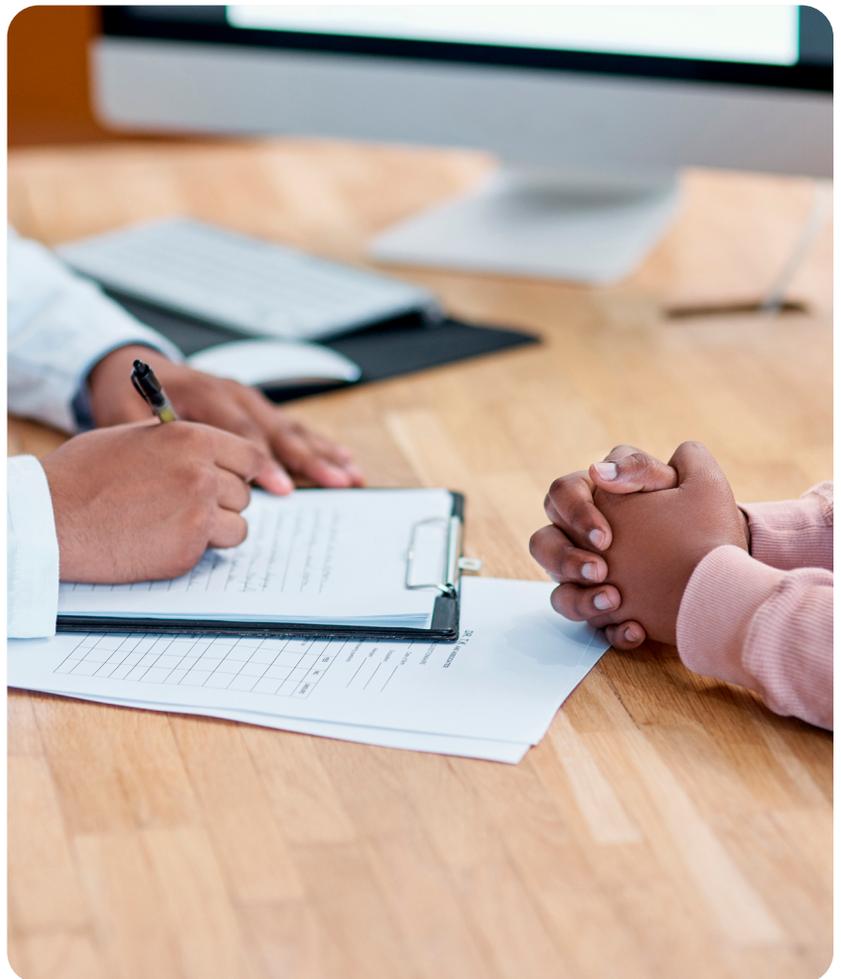
As a Medicaid recipient, you cannot be billed for any covered service. But you may receive a letter if a claim for a medical service or treatment is denied for certain reasons.

A Denial of Payment letter will be sent if MedStar Family Choice's Claims department reviewed and denied the payment to your provider. The letter will include a clear explanation of why the claim was denied. Claims could be denied for third-party liability (another insurance is primary), services from out-of-network providers, costs for optional services the plan does not cover, and out-of-state services.

You may want to share a copy of the letter with your doctor to discuss next steps. MedStar Family Choice sends copies of Denial of Payment letters to doctors. If your doctor would like to talk to MedStar Family Choice about this decision, please have them call **800-261-3371**.

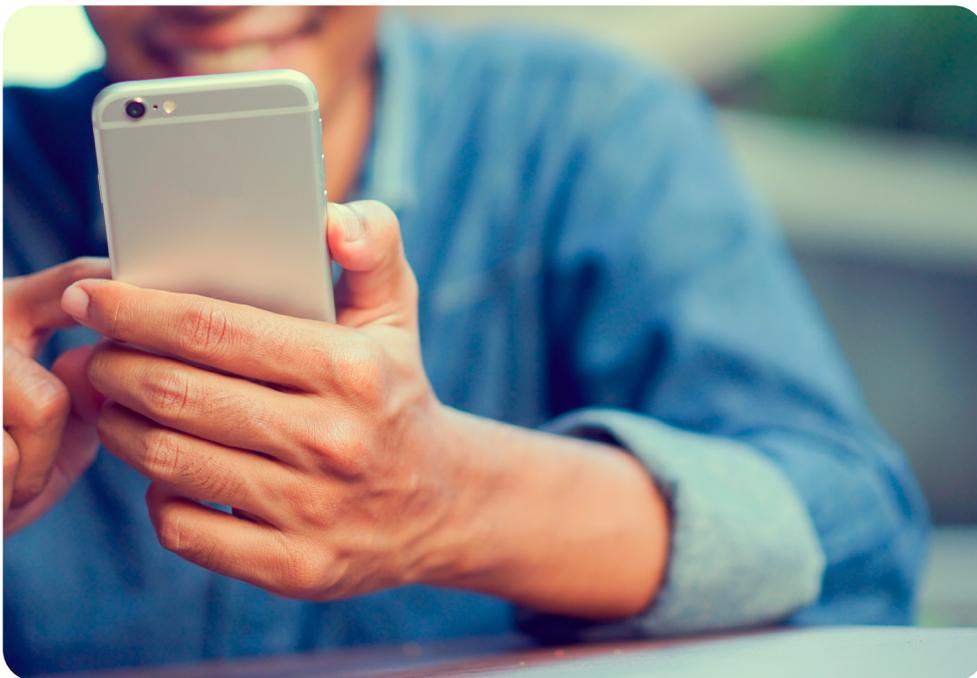
The MedStar Family Choice complaint, grievance, and appeal procedure can be found on our website **MedStarFamilyChoice.com** or in your member handbook. If you do not have access to our website, you may call our Member Services department at **888-404-3549** for a copy of the process. The process includes information on:

- How to file a complaint, grievance, or appeal, and the differences between them
- How quickly we will respond to you
- What to do if you do not agree with our decision



To request documents used to make claim decisions or if you have any questions, please call MedStar Family Choice Member Services at **888-404-3549**. If you have a concern about a decision made by MedStar Family Choice, members always have the right to contact the HealthChoice Enrollee Help Line at **800-284-4510** Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MedStar Family Choice Facebook Group



We encourage all members to join our new Facebook group to remain connected.

This group will include information about member benefits, events, healthy tips, provider scheduling recommendations, and more.

Visit [Bit.ly/MFCGroup](https://bit.ly/MFCGroup) and click on “+ Join Group” to see our posts.

Free Interpreter Services Available

If you know a MedStar Family Choice member who does not speak English—or doesn't speak it well—call Member Services toll-free at **888-404-3549**. We have interpreters to help members when visiting their doctors.

We will also provide an interpreter to help members who do not speak English or read written information sent by Member Services. If you or someone you know is deaf or has trouble hearing, a TTY line is available. Just call **800-735-2258**.

In addition, members can access Maryland Relay for TTY assistance. MedStar Family Choice also has people available who can use sign language to help you during doctor visits. You, or someone who can speak for you, must let the Member Services representative know that you need an interpreter.

Contact us anytime you need help!

Please contact MedStar Family Choice if you have any questions or concerns about the services we provide. The MedStar Family Choice staff is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

You can also call our Member Services department at **888-404-3549** toll free, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please call during normal business hours to have your needs addressed. You may leave us a non-urgent message after hours. Calls received after normal business hours will be returned the next business day.

Important Numbers to Know:

Outreach and Care Management phone: **800-905-1722** or **410-933-2200**

Case Management fax: **855-829-2209** or **410-933-2209**

Utilization Management fax: **888-243-1790** or **410-933-2274**

Outreach fax: **888-991-2232** or **410-933-2232**

Member Services phone: **888-404-3549**

Nurse Advice Line phone: **855-210-6204, 24 hours a day/seven days a week**



Earn gift cards with the Momma & Me program

Did you know MedStar Family Choice members who are pregnant may be eligible for the Momma & Me program? Members in the Momma & Me program could receive up to \$200 in gift cards for completing their OB appointments. Please call **443-692-1012** for more information.

Moms-to-be can also earn \$35 in gift cards for completing the MedStar Family Choice Healthy Life Portal Momma & Me online workshop.

- Earn \$25 in gift cards for completing the Prenatal/Breastfeeding course
- Earn \$10 in gift cards for completing Infant Safety courses and enjoy access to topics like:
 - Healthy Weight Gain
 - Labor and Delivery
 - Crib Safety ... and many more

Log in and register at:
MedStarFamilyChoiceHealthyLife.com.



Change your address or Medicaid information

It is essential that we have your most up-to-date contact information to get important health plan information to you as quickly as possible. MedStar Family Choice members* can update their contact information at any time by following the steps below:

- Log into your account at **MarylandHealthConnection.gov**.
- Click the "Change My Information" quick link.
- Change, review, and confirm that your information is accurate.
- Report any changes necessary.
- Provide your electronic signature and SUBMIT.
- Select COMPLETE THE ENROLLMENT PROCESS.

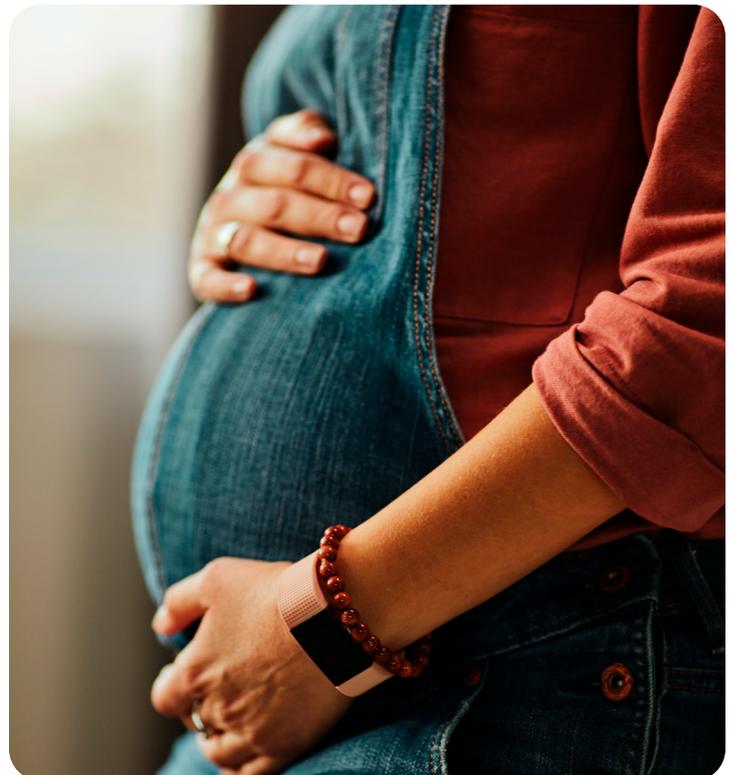
For free assistance in changing your Medicaid information, please visit **MarylandHealthConnection.gov/Find-Help/In-Person-Assistance/#tool** or call **855-642-8572 (TTY: 855-642-8573)**.

*Disabled members need to go through their case manager at their local Department of Social Services to make changes to their contact information. For more information, please visit **MyDHRBenefits.DHR.State.MD.us**.

Pregnancy and you

If you are thinking about becoming pregnant:

- Talk to your doctor—you should be in your best health before you become pregnant!
- Stop smoking
- Stop alcohol and illegal drug use
- Determine if your current medications are safe to take during early pregnancy
- Confirm your immunizations are up to date
- Discuss safe sex practices to avoid infections
- Determine whether you need to take any vitamins or folic acid



Once you become pregnant:

- Make an appointment with your Ob/Gyn provider as soon as possible. Women who receive early and regular prenatal care have healthier babies!
- You will need to have urine screening tests, blood tests, cervical cancer screenings, and cultures several times during the pregnancy. Your provider is unable to check your baby directly and this is the only way for the provider to determine if you are still healthy enough to carry your baby.
- You may have several sonograms during your pregnancy. Sonograms are used to check the baby's growth, the baby's anatomy (are things looking normal), the amount of fluid around your baby, and the health of your placenta and/or cervix. Sonograms are never indicated just to determine the sex of your baby.



What do to prepare for your baby:

- Avoid secondhand smoke, alcohol, and drugs
- Sign up for childbirth classes
- Pick a pediatrician (baby doctor) and make an appointment to meet them
- Decide if you are going to breastfeed or bottle feed your baby
- Gather baby supplies, including car seat, crib or bassinet, clothes, diapers, feeding supplies
- Ask family and friends for help at home after you deliver
- Don't forget during that first week at home after you have had your baby, you will need to schedule your baby's first pediatrician appointment and your postpartum appointment! You need to be healthy to care for your baby!

MedStar Family Choice cares about your health and the health of your baby! Please call us using the numbers below with any questions or concerns:

Call **410-933-2200, option 2** to speak with a nurse Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

After business hours, call **855-210-6204** for the 24/7 Nurse Advice Line.

MedStar Family Choice survey results are online

MedStar Family Choice wants you to stay informed on how we are doing. For updated information on survey results such as HEDIS, Satisfaction Surveys, System Performance Reviews, EPSDT audits, and the Consumer Report Card, please visit the MedStar Family Choice Quality web page:

[MedStarFamilyChoice.com/Maryland-HealthChoice/For-Maryland-HealthChoice-Members/Quality](https://www.MedStarFamilyChoice.com/Maryland-HealthChoice/For-Maryland-HealthChoice-Members/Quality)

Paper copies are available upon request by calling **888-404-3549**. As we continue to improve and strive for high scores, your dedication to quality health care is very much appreciated. *HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). CAHPS is a registered trademark of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).*

Your doctor is here to help with all your healthcare needs



Your doctor or primary care provider (PCP) can manage much of your healthcare needs. You may not need a specialty referral in many cases. Your PCP has the best relationship with you or your child and knows your health history. Your doctor should be the first person to discuss any health concerns with you prior to giving you a referral to see a specialist.

It is important to follow up on all appointments that you have scheduled with your PCP. If there are any problems noted, your PCP can take care of them right away. If you feel like you want a second opinion, you have the right to get one from another in-network provider or a specialist.

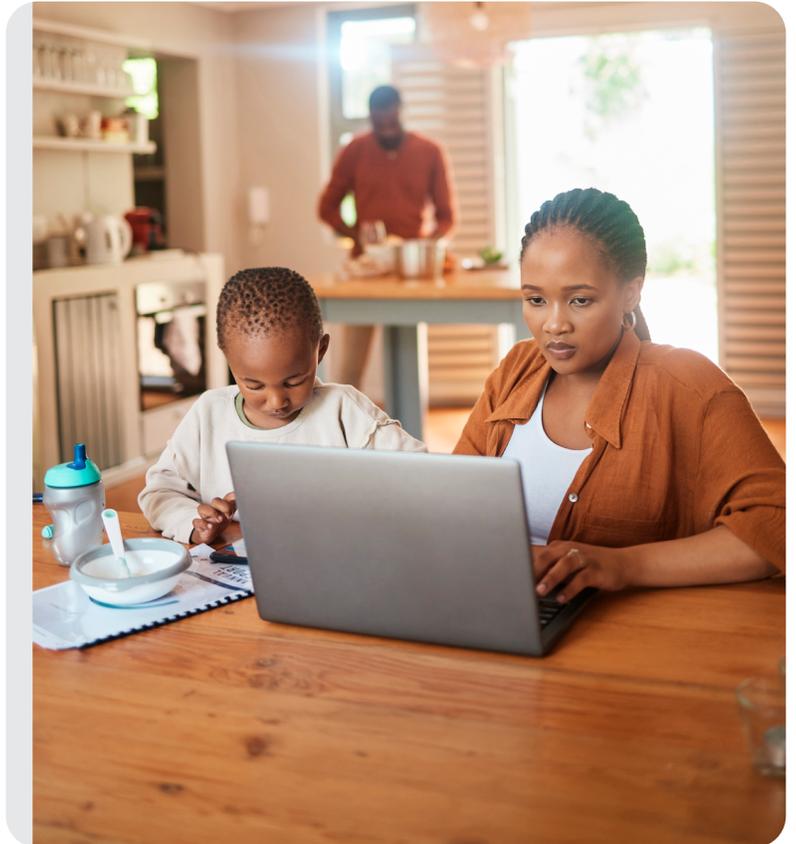
Always talk openly and voice your opinion with your PCP, so you can make a decision together regarding the need to see a specialist.

Notice of Privacy Practices

MedStar Family Choice recognizes the importance of keeping your health information private. Medstar Family Choice maintains a Notice of Privacy Practices (Notice). This important document in part describes how we may use and disclose your medical information, how you can access this information, and how to report a complaint if you feel your privacy has been violated.

Our Notice was recently updated.

- We updated the list of entities part of the Medstar Health Affiliated Covered Entity (ACE). Medstar Family Choice is part of the Medstar Health ACE.
- We simplified many parts of the Notice.
- We added more information on laws that provide additional privacy protections, including ones protecting behavioral health and genetic information.
- We also updated information on how we may use and disclose your information, including among clinical observers and to entities such as CommonWell Health Alliance Services, accountable care organizations, or other insurers.
- Information on ways you can opt-out of data sharing with certain recipients were added to the Notice. In Maryland for example, you could opt-out of data sharing for care coordination purposes with an accountable care organization or insurer.
- We also added information on how we protect your rights and the rights of parents, minors, and guardians, and on your right to confidential communications with us. We added more information on your right to an accounting of disclosures.
- We added Virginia as a state that Medstar Health is located in.



A copy of our revised Notice is available online at <https://www.medstarfamilychoice.com/privacy-practices>. If you have any questions related to protecting your health information or would like to request a copy of the Notice, you could alternatively contact Member Services at **888-404-3549**.

Pharmacy Rules

MedStar Family Choice must follow certain rules when processing requests for medicines your health care provider prescribes.

If your health care provider feels you need a medicine that is not on our covered list, ask them to please submit a request with the medical notes that explain why you need this medicine. If your pharmacist tells you a medicine requires approval from us or is not covered, ask them to call your health care provider immediately so they can follow up with us about getting the medicine covered for you.

MedStar Family Choice only has 24 hours from the time we receive the request to make a decision and notify your health care provider. Sending us the medical notes will help us to get you your medicines quickly.

COVID-19 Tests for Members

Beginning September 25, 2023, every U.S. household can place an order to receive four free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to your home. For more information, please visit <https://www.covid.gov/tests>.

COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines help your body develop protection from the virus that causes COVID-19. Although vaccinated people sometimes get infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, staying up to date on COVID-19 vaccines significantly lowers the risk of getting very sick, being hospitalized, or dying from COVID-19. CDC recommends that everyone stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, especially people with weakened immune systems.

cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html#vacc

To schedule your COVID-19 vaccine, please contact your primary care physician (PCP) or visit any participating pharmacy. For additional information or assistance, please contact MedStar Family Choice Member Services at **888-404-3549**.

Even with the COVID-19 vaccine, you may get a cold or other virus. If you cannot visit your primary care doctor, MedStar Family Choice members can reach a doctor live using MedStar eVisit or by calling the Nurse Advice Line at **855-210-6204**. To learn more or sign up for MedStar eVisit, please visit MedStarFamilyChoice.com/eVisit.

Results of MedStar Family Choice's annual quality review

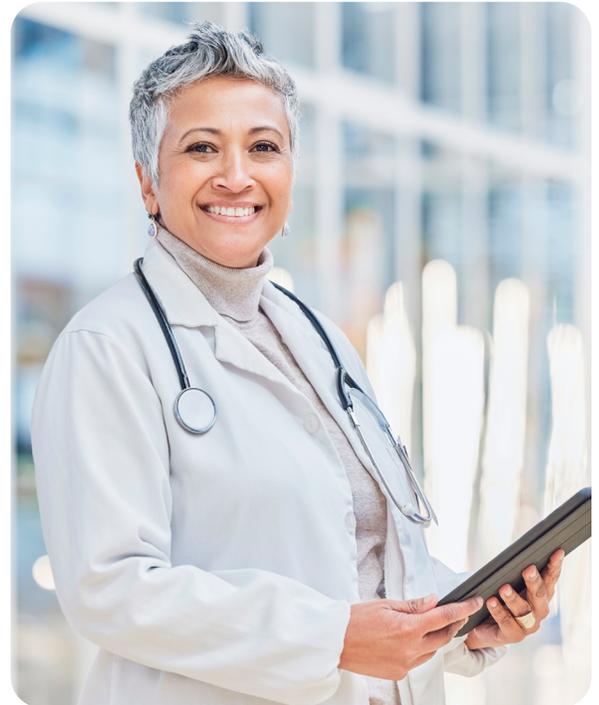
The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is required to review the quality of care provided to Maryland Medicaid members who are enrolled with any of the Maryland HealthChoice Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

To ensure that the services provided to members meet established regulations, MDH uses Qlarant, an outside agency, to review quality and performance.

This review looks at the following standards:

- Quality Assurance and Governance
- Delegation of Activities
- Credentialing and re-credentialing
- Enrollee rights
- Availability and accessibility
- Utilization review
- Continuity of care
- Health education
- Outreach
- Fraud and abuse

For the 2022 audit, MedStar Family Choice met the minimum requirements in all but one category. MFC received a finding of “partially met” for one element of the Utilization Review standard. As a result, MFC submitted a corrective action plan to Qlarant in the area where we fell short. An opportunity for improvement was identified for one element of the Health Education standard. MFC made changes based on Qlarant’s suggestions. MedStar Family Choice is committed to continuous quality improvement. Qlarant made recommendations and identified areas of focus for the next review. MedStar Family Choice actively reviews current processes and procedures with the goal of achieving 100% compliance in 2023.



MedStar Family
Choice

5233 King Ave., Suite 400
Baltimore, MD 21237
888-404-3549 **PHONE**
MedStarFamilyChoice.com

The MedStar Family Choice member newsletter is a publication of MedStar Family Choice.

Submit new items for the next issue to mary.e.ruland@medstar.net.

For more information on your plan or anything in this newsletter, please visit MedStarFamilyChoice.com.

Kenneth Samet
MedStar Health, President and CEO

Mary Ruland
Health Plan Communication Manager

Jocelyn Chisholm Carter, J.D.
President

Karyn Wills, MD
Medical Director