

PENNSYLVANIA'S PROGRAM FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Community Health Choices (CHC) is Pennsylvania's expanded Medicaid program. It provides physical health benefits and long-term services and supports to disabled adults, age 21 and older, to promote independent living and prevent nursing home placements. The goal is to help recipients be independent, active, and involved within the community where they reside.

SOME OF THE SERVICES THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE THROUGH CHC

- **Personal Care Services – (dressing, bathing, meal prep, medication management)**
- Home Health – Nursing
- Home Therapies
- Cognitive Therapy
- Home Modifications
- Vehicle Modifications
- Medical Equipment/Supplies
- Assistive Technology
- Respite Care
- Day program
- Vocational Assistance
- Home Delivered Meals

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Adults, age 21 and older
- Financial Criteria – Income and Resource Eligibility (spousal income not considered)
- Medical Criteria – physician must complete a certification that the patient is nursing facility clinically eligible. This does *not* mean that the individual is going to a nursing home, *only that they need assistance in the home with activities of daily living (ADL)*.

HOW TO APPLY FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CHOICES

- *Application for CHC services can be filed while the individual is still in the hospital. Discharge date is not required to apply.*
- Call the PA Independent Enrollment Broker – Maximus
- The application process can take up to 90 days or longer.
- Patient/families should begin the application process *as soon as possible*.
- Maximus requires an in-person meeting with the patient to assess functional limitations/supports and services needed.

CONCLUSION

CHC is the only Pennsylvania program that provides personal care services at home. The application process is somewhat complex. Case managers, families, and advocates working together increase the chances that supports and services can be obtained as early as possible.

For more information call

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