



What is Special Needs BasicCare?

Special Needs Basic Care (SNBC) is a managed care program for people on medical assistance (MA) with disabilities. You may or may not also have Medicare eligibility. Managed care means that the health plan coordinates the health care you get. Your health plan will take care of most of your health care needs, promoting access to primary and preventive health care.

- You still have the same Medical Assistance benefits, and the health plan may offer additional benefits.
- Three SNBC plans also offer integrated Medicare benefits including Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.
- A care coordinator or navigator is available to help you find a doctor or specialist.
- You can call a nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week if you have any health questions.
- You do not have to pay MA co-pays and deductibles.
- PCA, private duty nursing, and waiver services are NOT included in the SNBC benefit set, so you should not have to make any changes in those services (and who provides them) just because you enroll in SNBC.

What changes in 2012?

SNBC has been available to adults with disabilities on MA. In 2012, people with disabilities under age 65 who have MA coverage are being invited to enroll in a Special Needs Basic Care (SNBC) plan with a managed care organization. You will get a letter from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) with information on enrollment sometime between November 2011 and June 2012, depending on your county.

Anyone can choose not to enroll in SNBC (to opt-out) and to stay in MA fee-for-service. The letter from DHS will give you information about enrollment and a form to opt-out if you choose to do that. Only you or your legal representative can make the decision to opt out of SNBC coverage.

People who do not choose to opt- out will be enrolled in a SNBC health plan that is available in their county. If you do not choose a plan, one will be chosen for you. You can always choose to return to fee for service MA.

Five managed care organizations in Minnesota currently offer a SNBC health plan: Medica, Metropolitan Health Plan (MHP), PrimeWest, South Country Health Alliance (SCHA), and UCare. You can see which plans are available in what counties at the DHS SNBC website at www.state.mn.dhs/SNBC.

The “Guide to Special Needs Basic Care Enrollment” provides information about SNBC benefits and things to think about when choosing a health plan. Read this at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-5567-ENG> or request it from the Disability Linkage Line.

If you have any questions about the SNBC program or enrollment, contact the Disability Linkage Line® at 1-866-333-2466. The Disability Linkage Line® is a free unbiased statewide comprehensive information, referral and assistance service for people with disabilities, chronic illnesses, and their representatives. Disability Linkage Line specialists provide objective one-to-one assistance to help people learn about and manage their health care and other benefit options, as well as access community supports and services.

What are the differences?

Medical Assistance fee-for-service (FFS)

- You go to any Minnesota Health Care Programs provider.
- You do not need a referral to see a specialist.
- You need to find a dentist who will take your card.
- You will have to pay copays for some emergency room services and prescription drugs.
- If you have Medicare, you need to pick a Medicare Part D plan for your drug coverage.
- Fee-for-service covers all Medical Assistance covered services.
- If you need waiver services, they are provided through your county. This includes Community Alternatives for Disabled Individuals (CADI), Community Alternative Care (CAC), Brain Injury (BI), and Developmental Disabilities (DD) waiver services.
- If you have a medical spenddown, your provider(s) will bill you for it.

Special Needs BasicCare (SNBC)

- You go to your health plan's doctors, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, and specialists.
- Your doctor or care coordinator can help you find a specialist.
- You can call a 24-hour nurse line and they will refer you to the best place for care.
- The health plan will help you get access to the health plan's dentists.
- Some health plans include all Medicare services including Part D drugs. If you choose Medica or UCare for your health plan, you will have to choose a separate Medicare Part D plan.
- The only copays you would have would be for Medicare Part D drugs.
- SNBC includes most Medical Assistance state plan services, except personal care assistants (PCAs) and private duty nurses.
- Waiver services, PCAs, and private duty nurses continue to be paid by Medical Assistance under fee-for-service. They are provided through your county.
- Your health plan may offer additional benefits beyond the Medical Assistance benefit set.
- The health plan is responsible for the first 100 days of a nursing home stay.
- You are not eligible to enroll if you have a medical spend down. If you are already enrolled and have a medical spend down you may remain enrolled but must continue to pay the spend down to the state each month.

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