

HEALTH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

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## MEDICAID MANAGED CARE ENROLLMENT ACTIVITY

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services advised that, due to some technical difficulties, release of the managed care reports for June 2020 has been delayed. The department has not yet released May reports either. We will share the enrollment information when it becomes available.

For additional information, [Esther Reagan](#), Senior Consultant, at (517) 482-9236.

## MI HEALTH LINK

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services advised that, due to some technical difficulties, release of the MI Health Link enrollment reports for June 2020 has been delayed. We will share the enrollment information when it becomes available.

For additional information, contact [Esther Reagan](#), Senior Consultant, at (517) 482-9236.

## MICHIGAN MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS

January marked a new year for Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plans (SNPs). Some plans focus on Medicare beneficiaries with certain chronic medical conditions; these are called C-SNPs. Other plans focus on Medicare beneficiaries residing in institutions; these are I-SNPs. Plans that focus on Medicare beneficiaries dually eligible for Medicaid (duals) are called D-SNPs. All three types of plans provide Medicare benefits, and this is the first year they are all available in Michigan.

Meridian Health Plan of Michigan is offering a C-SNP focused on Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes and had 51 enrollees in June. Align Senior Care Michigan is offering a C-SNP focused on beneficiaries with diabetes or with cardiac issues and had 14 enrollees in June. Align is also offering an I-SNP and had 159 enrollees in June.

Four of the 10 Medicaid HMOs in Michigan are also federally contracted as D-SNPs: Meridian Health Plan of Michigan, Molina Healthcare of Michigan, Priority Health Choice, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan. As of June 1, 2020, these four D-SNPs had a combined enrollment of 31,052 duals for whom they provide Medicare services.

Almost 43 percent of the duals enrolled in a Michigan D-SNP (13,222 individuals) in June 2020 were enrolled with Molina; more than 33 percent (10,308 individuals) were enrolled with Meridian; more than 8 percent (2,589 individuals) were enrolled with Priority, and almost 16 percent (4,933 individuals) were enrolled with UnitedHealthcare. None of these duals are participating in the MI Health Link demonstration, but some may also be enrolled in these same plans to receive their Medicaid services. In addition to these four health plans, two additional D-SNPs serve Michigan – Humana Medical/Dental Plan and Health Alliance Plan (HAP) of Michigan. Humana had 8,231 enrollees as of June 1, 2020 and HAP had



96 enrollees. HAP is the parent organization for HAP Empowered Health Plan, which is both a Medicaid HMO and one of the Integrated Care Organizations participating in MI Health Link, the state’s integrated health care delivery system demonstration for adults dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.

Not all duals enrolled in the D-SNPs are eligible to receive full Medicaid benefits. Some only receive assistance from the Medicaid program with their Medicare coinsurance and deductible payments and/or monthly Medicare premiums.

**For additional information, contact [Esther Reagan](#), Senior Consultant, at (517) 482-9236.**

## HEALTHY MICHIGAN PLAN ENROLLMENT

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) reports enrollment counts for the Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP), its Medicaid expansion program for low-income non-elderly adults who do not meet eligibility criteria for traditional program coverage, at the beginning of each week on its [website](#). Enrollment stood at **749,547 as of June 29, 2020**, the last counting date of the month. This is an **increase of 34,308 since May 26, 2020**, the last counting day in May. **The enrollment count for June 29, 2020 is the highest ever enrollment count for the program and more than 86,000 higher than June 2019.**

Normally, the enrollment count drops on the first counting day of each month due to case closures resulting from annual eligibility redeterminations, then grows again by the end of the month as new applications and redeterminations are processed. However, as reported in the April edition of *The Michigan Update*, MDHHS released a program bulletin on April 6, 2020 (MSA 20-19) announcing that virtually all case closures have temporarily been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## STATE BUDGET

On June 29, 2020, media outlets reported that Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Republican legislative leaders have reached agreement on the means to close the \$2.2 billion shortfall in the current fiscal year, which ends September 30, 2020. The deal includes replacing \$553 million in state spending on K-12 schools, higher education, community colleges and local governments with \$950 million in federal coronavirus relief funds as well as withdrawing \$350 million from the Budget Stabilization Fund and making reductions in other state spending. Savings will accrue through a state hiring freeze, layoffs of state employees, discretionary spending freezes and other reductions. With this agreement, appropriations bills can be finalized by the Legislature and passed on to the Governor hopefully by the end of July. The Legislature can then turn to the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget that starts October 1, 2020, for which there is an estimated \$3.2 billion shortfall.



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## 2020 KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK

In the April 2020 edition of *The Michigan Update*, we reported that the Michigan League for Public Policy had released the *2020 Kids Count in Michigan Data Book*. On June 22, 2020, a related publication was released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. [The 2020 KIDS COUNT® Data Book](#) provides nationwide data on 16 indicators across four domains: children’s economic well-being, education, family and community, and health. The report generally compares data from 2010 with those from 2018. This publication also ranks states and compares their scores with national values.

The Data Book reports that Michigan received an overall national ranking of 32nd, the same as last year’s assessment. Michigan’s best national rank was 22nd in health, and the lowest was 40th in education. The state ranked 30th in both the economic well-being and the family and community categories. While Michigan’s overall rankings did not improve, the data in several of the 16 indicators did show improvement, with these changes generally following national trends.

For additional information, contact [Esther Reagan](#), Senior Consultant, at (517) 482-9236.

## TELEMEDICINE IN MICHIGAN

On June 24, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed five bills into law that will increase access to health care through telemedicine and remote patient monitoring services. Public Acts 97, 98, 99, 100 and 101 of 2020 were given immediate effect and codify significant pieces of Executive Order 2020-86, which expanded access to telemedicine as part of the state’s emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## MEDICAID POLICIES

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued five final and two proposed policies in June that merit mention. One of the final policies was simultaneously released for public comments. They are available for review on the department’s [website](#).

- **MSA 20-11** was issued on June 1, 2020 to advise **Practitioners, Hearing Aid Dealers Cochlear Implant Manufacturers, Audiologists/Hearing Centers, Independent Diagnostic Testing Facilities and Others** that the **Hearing Aid Dealers Chapter in the Medicaid Provider Manual has been eliminated** and the **Hearing Services Chapter has been renamed and revised** to incorporate policies for hearing aids.
- **MSA 20-43** was issued on June 1, 2020 to inform **All Providers** of **quarterly updates to the Medicaid Provider Manual and procedure codes**. The bulletin also **clarifies policy regarding non-emergency ambulance transports**.



- **MSA 20-39** was issued on June 4, 2020 to notify **Hospitals and Medicaid Health Plans** of **Rural Access Pool restoration** and **Critical Access Hospital reimbursement changes**.
- **MSA 20-45** was issued on June 4, 2020 to advise **Hospitals and Medicaid Health Plans** of updates to the **reimbursement methodology for Neonatal Intensive Care Units**.
- **MSA 20-41** was issued on June 29, 2020, as part of the state's **COVID-19** response, to advise **Private Duty Nursing, Home Health and Hospice Agencies** of **temporary alternative staffing flexibilities** for services and modifications to prior authorization requirements. This policy was **simultaneously released for public comment (2043-PDN)** with comments due by August 2, 2020.
- A proposed policy (**2011-Eligibility**) has been issued that would **revise Medicaid eligibility policy related to the transfer of assets** by a Medicaid applicant or the applicant's spouse. Comments are due to MDHHS by July 29, 2020.
- A proposed policy (**2014-Eligibility**) has been issued that would **update Medicaid financial eligibility criteria for the MI Choice waiver and PACE in the Medicaid Eligibility Manual**. Comments are due to MDHHS by July 30, 2020.

In addition, MDHHS has released five L-letters of potential interest, which are available for review on the same website.

- **L 20-34** was released June 1, 2020 as a notice to Tribal Chairs and Health Directors of the department's **intent to submit a Section 1135 Waiver, Disaster Relief Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid State Plan Amendments, Appendix K Preprints, and Section 1115 Demonstration requests** to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to utilize **flexibilities in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency**. The letter provides detail regarding the flexibilities requested.
- **L 20-17** was released June 3, 2020 to **encourage providers to use Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment and Medication Assisted Treatment services** for beneficiaries with indications of a substance use disorder.
- **L 20-39** was released June 25, 2020 to **offer MI Choice Waiver Agencies flexibility in provider monitoring during the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- **L 20-36** was released June 29, 2020 to advise **Nursing Facilities** of an **adjustment to the Quality Measure Initiative payment** associated with submission of **resident satisfaction survey** data.
- **L 20-40** was released June 29, 2020 to inform **All Providers** of the **availability of and eligibility requirements for Medicaid Targeted Distribution Funds** out of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The letter provides details about the **application process for the CARES Act funding** from the federal government. **Applications must be submitted by July 20, 2020**.

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# HMA HEALTH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

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