

Orange County HIV Medical Services

Low Income Health Program Frequently Asked Questions

The following document provides information regarding upcoming changes to the eligibility process for medical services and an opportunity to expand your health care options.

The eligibility requirements and process for Medi-Cal have not changed. This document will focus on information specific to the transition of patients based on the Low Income Health Program (LIHP) and Medical Services Initiative (MSI). Information about this transition plan for clients is subject to change. The questions and answers below are provided based on information known as of October 17, 2011.

1. What are the LIHP and MSI programs?

Under a new 1115 Medicaid Waiver Program, Orange County will continue its expansion of healthcare services available to people who traditionally have not qualified for Medi-Cal or the County's MSI program. This new Low Income Health Program (or LIHP) is funded by the County and the federal government to provide services similar to Medi-Cal to qualified individuals. These services include provision of a medical home, inpatient and outpatient medical services, prescription medicines, home health care, emergency dental services, limited mental health services, and more.

In Orange County, LIHP has been integrated into the County's existing MSI program. So, LIHP and MSI are just different names for the expanded healthcare program.

2. Who qualifies for MSI?

Eligible individuals must meet all the following criteria:

- Adults (ages 19-64)
- Persons living at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Level
- Persons who have documented Orange County residency
- Persons who have documented U.S. Citizenship or Resident Alien Status
- Persons who are not eligible for Medi-Cal

3. How is MSI different from the Ryan White Program?

The Ryan White Program provides services as "funds of last resort." This means that funding covers services for people who have no other source for HIV care. The MSI program is considered another source of funding for HIV medical services, so if a patient qualifies for MSI then his or her care must be covered (paid for) using MSI, not Ryan White.

MSI also covers different services from Ryan White. MSI offers more health care services than Ryan White.

4. I receive my HIV medical care from 17th Street Care or Laguna Beach Community Clinic (LBCC); what does this change mean for me?

If you meet the MSI eligibility requirements, as listed above, you will need to apply for MSI as part of your next eligibility recertification. If you qualify, MSI will become the payer for your medical care.

5. I am a Ryan White patient at 17th Street Care or LBCC and I <u>do not</u> meet all of the eligibility requirements for MSI, what does that mean for me?

There should be **NO** change in services for Ryan White clients who do not qualify for MSI.

6. I am a Ryan White patient at 17th Street Care or LBCC, where can I apply for MSI?

MSI eligibility screening will take place at 17th Street Care. If you are a current patient of 17th Street Care or LBCC, it is best for you to be screened at 17th Street Care because the screeners will also review eligibility for all other sources of care including Ryan White services, Medi-Cal (CalOptima), and private insurance.

11/18/2011 1 of 2



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7. What documents do I need to bring to my next eligibility appointment?

The attached "Clinic Eligibility Required Documents" provides information on acceptable documents that support proof of eligibility.

8. How often do I have to reapply for MSI?

MSI enrollment is every 12 months. However, other HIV services like the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and Ryan White services require eligibility screening every six months or when there is a change in your eligibility status such as a change in your income.

9. How and when will I hear if I qualify for MSI?

Once all of the required documents are received, it can take about six weeks for MSI to review and approve a patient for the MSI program. During this time, a patient can continue to receive HIV care from his or her current doctor. If you are approved for MSI you will get a letter confirming you were approved for the program. You will also receive an MSI card. It is important to bring the card or a copy of the letter to all of your medical appointments.

10. If I qualify for MSI can I still get my HIV medical care at 17th Street Care or LBCC?

Yes. At this time, both clinics will continue to provide care during this transition. In addition, MSI has other primary care physicians in their network you may choose to see for your care.

11. If I get MSI, will I still get my medications from the ADAP?

No, MSI covers all medically-necessary medications, including HIV medicines. There should be no change in your HIV medications under MSI. Many ADAP pharmacies are also MSI pharmacies, so you may not need to change pharmacies. You should bring your MSI card to the pharmacy to get your medicines.

12. Do MSI patients have to pay co-payments?

There are no co-payments for your medical care visits; however, some patients will have co-payments for prescriptions depending on their income.

13. If I get MSI, can I still receive Ryan White services?

Yes, some services. A person who receives MSI medical services can still receive other Ryan White services that are not covered by the MSI program. For example, a person can receive Ryan White-funded Food Bank, Oral Health (preventative and limited specialty services), Home Delivered Meals, and Case Management, if the services are not provided by the MSI program and the patient meets the eligibility requirement for the service(s).

14. Where can I get more information on the MSI program?

More information about the MSI program can be found at the MSI website: http://www.ochealthinfo.com/medical/msi.

Information about MSI and other HIV services that are available in Orange County can be found on the HIV Planning and Coordination website: http://ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/hiv.

Information sessions about MSI and changes in eligibility screening will be provided at 17th Street Care.

11/18/2011 2 of 2