



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

November 26, 2013

To: Respite Care Providers

From: Mark A. Leeds, Director  
Long Term Care & Community Support Services

Re: Community First Choice

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The purpose of this memo is to provide notice of upcoming reimbursement changes due to implementation of Maryland Medicaid's new State Plan Program – Community First Choice.

Effective January 6, 2014, the Living at Home Waiver Program will be consolidated with the Waiver for Older Adults program to form a new program called the Home and Community-Based Options Waiver.

Also effective January 6, 2014, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will be implementing a new State Plan program called Community First Choice (CFC). The CFC program has been established to allow individuals who meet an institutional level of care to receive certain home and community-based services and supports in their homes instead of an institutional setting. CFC will be implemented as a State Plan option for all eligible participants under the regulatory authority COMAR 10.09.84.

All waiver participants will also be eligible to receive CFC services. Some services that were formerly part of the waivers will now be CFC services, to allow a larger group of people to access these services. Personal assistance is one service which will be covered through CFC. CFC participants will have a flexible budget for personal assistance services.

One of the many changes that will occur with the merger of the waivers and the implementation of CFC is the discontinuation of respite care as a service. Respite care will now be considered part of the flexible budget for personal assistance. If you are currently enrolled as a provider of personal assistance you will not need to reenroll.

Current respite care providers will not be able to bill for respite care services after January 5, 2014. Current Medical Assistance provider number for respite services will no longer be active. Please note that providers should continue to bill the current procedure code and rate until January 5, 2014.

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If other services are provided other than respite care, the discontinuation of respite care as a service will not affect those other services. Providers will not need to complete a new application or forward any documentation to maintain current enrollment status for services other than respite care and provider numbers will not change for those other services. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will update existing provider enrollment status to accommodate this change.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Living at Home Waiver Division at 410-767-7479 or Waiver for Older Adults at 410-767-5220.