

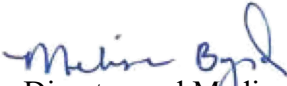
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

Transmittal # 26-19

TO: DC Medicaid Providers

FROM: Melisa Byrd 
Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

DATE: July 02, 2026

SUBJECT: Managed Care Plan Transition

Purpose

The purpose of this transmittal is to inform you that **effective August 1, 2026, enrollees in the District of Columbia Medicaid Managed Care Program who are currently enrolled with Wellpoint DC (formerly Amerigroup DC) will be automatically assigned to AmeriHealth Caritas DC (AmeriHealth).**

Details

Enrollees have until January 31, 2027, to select MedStar Family Choice DC (MedStar) if dissatisfied with the auto-assignment. It is important to verify eligibility for all enrollees prior to rendering services to confirm active Medicaid eligibility and identify the current managed care enrollment. Information about your patients, prepared by Wellpoint's medical management staff and the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) will be provided to AmeriHealth to make this process as seamless as possible while maintaining continuity of care.

Wellpoint is responsible for reimbursement of all covered services rendered to its enrollees through July 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. This also includes medical/surgical inpatient admissions extending beyond the termination date. You may contact **Laura Williams at mpswebinquiries@wellpoint.com or 800-454-3730**, for assistance after the termination date of the contact.

To further ensure continuity of care for the enrollees, there will be a transition period of August 1, 2026, through October 31, 2026. During the transition period, DHCF will uphold the following commitments:

Prior Authorizations (PAs)

Rendering providers shall consider all **active** referrals or PAs issued before August 1, 2026, valid and effective through October 31, 2026, whether or not the provider is contracted with AmeriHealth or MedStar. AmeriHealth and MedStar agree to honor **active** referrals and PAs

previously issued before August 1, 2026. As applicable, each health plan will coordinate to issue new referrals and PAs for continuity of services.

Specialist Referrals

Specialty providers are expected and authorized to initiate their own referrals for additional tests and procedures. The Specialist should not refer the patient/enrollee back to their primary care physician (PCP) to obtain a referral for such services. The additional services are covered under the initial referral to the specialty provider.

Health care providers are not to cancel appointments with current patients. AmeriHealth must honor any ongoing treatment that was authorized prior to enrollment into the health plan, for up to 60 days or the last day of the transition period.

Pharmacy

All active prescriptions will be honored during the transition period. AmeriHealth must allow enrollees to continue to receive prescriptions through their current provider through October 31, 2026, or until their prescriptions can be transferred to a provider in the health plan's network.

Any issues or concerns during and after the transition can be submitted using the established Provider Inquiry Form. The inquiry form can be accessed by clicking this [link](#). Saving the link to the web address is strongly recommended for future use.

Provider Enrollment

If you do not have a Provider agreement with MCPs other than Wellpoint and wish to enroll in their network, please connect through the access points listed below. Representatives from each organization will answer your questions about joining the associated MCP's network.

Amerihealth Caritas DC

Credentialing

dcprovidernetwork@amerihealthcaritasdc.com

877-759-6186

Medstar Family Choice District of Columbia

Provider Relations

MFCDC-ProviderRelations@MedStar.net

800-261-3371

Contact

If you have questions about this transmittal, please contact Lisa Truitt, Director, Health Care Delivery Management Administration [HCDMA] at lisa.truitt@dc.gov or (202) 380-6899.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support during this transition period.

Sincerely,



Karen Dale, CEO
AmeriHealth Caritas DC



Dr. Tich Changamire, CEO
Wellpoint DC



Fonya Brown, CEO
MedStar Family Choice

Cc: DC Behavioral Health Association
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers
DC Dental Society
DC Health Care Association
DC Home Health Association
DC Hospital Association
DC Primary Care Association
Medical Society of the District of Columbia