

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director/Medicaid Director

Transmittal # 21-16

TO: DC Medicaid Providers

FROM: Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director/State Medicaid Director

DATE: May 20, 2021

SUBJECT: DC HIE Connectivity Deadline of July 31, 2021. Time-Limited Opportunity for Medicaid Providers to Receive No-Cost Technical Assistance and Connectivity Fees to Access the DC HIE

Purpose

The purpose of this transmittal is a final announcement for Medicaid providers who would like to receive free technical assistance and connectivity fees to connect to the District’s health information exchange (DC HIE). The DC HIE Connectivity Program will close applications for technical assistance on **July 31, 2021**.

In 2019, the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) awarded the DC HIE Connectivity Grant to Enlightened, Inc. to provide technical assistance and connect Medicaid providers, at no cost, to health information exchange entities in the District. The Program facilitates access to the DC HIE. Once connected to the DC HIE, providers will be able to easily and securely share and access patients’ health information across a patient’s entire care team. More information on the program is available at www.joinchhie.org.

As of April 2021, the majority of Medicaid providers – including behavioral health providers - are connected to the DC HIE. Overall, there are more than 11,500 registered users in the District accessing HIE services via the District’s Designated HIE, Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP). Participating in the DC HIE is a regulatory or contractual requirement for some provider types. Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD) providers are required, as a condition of reimbursement for services authorized under Chapter 86, to participate through a formal agreement with a registered HIE entity of the DC Health Information Exchange, defined in Chapter 87 of Title 29 of the DCMR. Participating in the DC HIE enables approved, treating providers to access a range of data including notifications regarding hospitalization, information on a patients’ care team, including care coordination services, labs and imaging.

Eligibility and Benefits for Medicaid Providers

The Program is available to **providers and organizations who bill 100+ Medicaid claims per year**. The Program will provide education, training, and enrollment in one of the District's health information entities. Providers will have the ability to:

- Get training and education to address their organization's current HIE needs;
- Get initial connectivity to the DC HIE which allows the provider to access clinical data and hospitalization alerts;
- Send encounter data to the DC HIE and access CRISP core services;
- Share patient clinical data to the DC HIE, which allows providers to access information on the same patients; and,
- Receive automated patient panels.

Technical Assistance

Interested providers and organizations can connect with Enlightened Inc and schedule an informational session on the DC HIE Connectivity Program on or before July 31, 2021. A technical assistance representative will assist authorized personnel to:

1. Receive education and training on the DC HIE
2. Execute a participation agreement with a DC HIE entity
3. Activate the HIE account to allow authorized users access to electronic patient records and receive encounter notifications.
4. Achieve full interoperability and connectivity within the District's health system that allows the provider to both receive information from the DC HIE, as well as send information.

To learn more about getting connected to the DC HIE while connection is still available for providers at no cost, schedule an informational session with Team Enlightened by visiting www.joinchic.org. Select "Get Connected" on the homepage to get started. A member of the team will connect with you to begin the onboarding process.

DHCF is committed to ensuring your continued success with the DC HIE Connectivity Program. For more information regarding DHCF DC HIE initiatives visit the DHCF website at <https://dhcf.dc.gov/page/dc-hie>

Please contact DHCF Health IT Project Analyst Nathaniel Curry with questions at Nathaniel.Curry@dc.gov, and/or submit your questions at healthIT@dc.gov.

cc: Medical Society of the District of Columbia
DC Hospital Association
DC Primary Care Association
DC Health Care Association
DC Home Care Association
DC Behavioral Health Association
DC Coalition of Disability Service Provider