

MEDICAID AND CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Medicaid is a public benefit program that pays for health care and related services for vulnerable populations (including low-income families with children, and people with disabilities) who meet certain federal and state eligibility criteria.



CYSHCN

Medicaid is the largest single payer for children and youth with special health care needs¹ (CYSHCN). It plays an important role for many privately insured CYSHCN by paying for copays, deductibles, and uncovered services.²

PAYERS & POLICYMAKERS

CYSHCN need to access Medicaid's benefits through a broad range of providers. Access to providers is important because by definition, CYSHCN require more health care services and supports than children typically do for expensive things such as wheelchairs, therapies, medications, and more.



FAMILIES

There are many pathways to Medicaid coverage for CYSHCN: eligibility based on income only, income and functional level of disability, severe disability, or engagement with the foster care system. Medicaid can help families ensure their CYSHCN has health care coverage for the services they need.

PROVIDERS

The causes and consequences of financial hardship for families raising CYSHCN are mitigated by the design elements of Medicaid: adequate benefits in the form of EPSDT, cost-sharing limits, and rules around access to providers.



CATALYST CENTER RESOURCES



Public Insurance Programs and CSHCN: A Tutorial on the Basics of Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

This tutorial gives an overview of Medicaid/CHIP, the populations these programs serve, and details to help think about ways to improve access to coverage for CYSHCN.

<http://cahpp.org/resources/Medicaid-CHIP-tutorial>



Infographic: Medicaid & CHIP: What's the Difference?

This infographic explains the important differences between Medicaid and CHIP.

<http://cahpp.org/resources/medicaid-chip-difference/>



State-at-a-glance Chartbook

The Chartbook provides state and national data. It is a valuable tool for learning about health insurance and financing of care and for advocating for improved coverage.

<http://cahpp.org/projects/the-catalyst-center/state-data-chartbook/>



State Financing Strategies

This page links to examples of the innovative strategies states are using to improve and finance care for CYSHCN, such as EPSDT, TEFRA, and more.

<http://cahpp.org/projects/the-catalyst-center/financing-strategies/>

DEFINING CYSHCN: According to the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau, CYSHCN are those who have or are at increased risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions, and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.¹

CITATIONS

- McPherson, M., Arango, P., Fox, H., Lauver, C., McManus, M., Newacheck, P., Perrin, J., Shonkoff, J., & Strickland, B. (1998). A new definition of children with special health care needs. *Pediatrics*, 102(1):137-140.
- Rosenthal, J., Henderson, M., Dolatshahi, J., Hess, C., Tobias, C., Bachman, S., & Comeau, M. (2016). *Public insurance programs and children with special health care needs: A tutorial on the basics of Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*. Boston.

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