

# The Check-Up



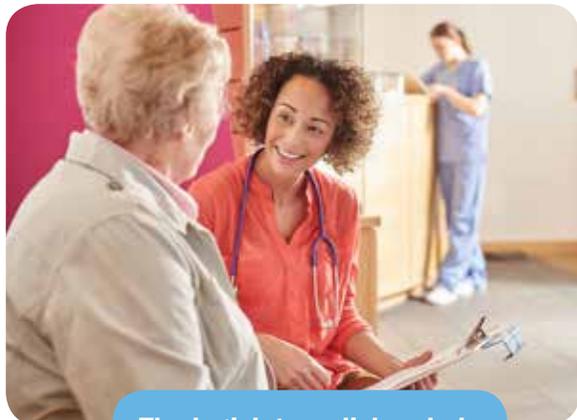
Updates on the progress of health care transformation initiatives

The Check-Up is a health care transformation news-letter designed to keep interested Iowans up-to-date on the progress of emerging health care initiatives and issues. The Check-Up features updates from the Iowa Department of Public Health's (IDPH) Office of Health Care Transformation (OHCT) within the Bureau of Policy and Workforce Services. The OHCT is a key point of contact for health care transformation initiatives within IDPH and emerging health care issues and policies. The OHCT monitors federal and state health care issues and disseminates the key information, opportunities and impacts to the public, and IDPH's internal and external partners.



## Patient-Centered Health Advisory Council

This past legislative session, House File 766 formally disbanded the Patient-Centered Health Advisory Council effective July 1, 2019. Over the years, this council has had many meaningful and candid conversations which raised awareness and attention to important topics that impact the health of Iowans. Numerous quality work products and recommendations were developed by the council that will continue to be of great value moving forward. The consistent and long-standing engagement from members and interested stakeholders speaks to the value of the council. IDPH would like to thank all of those involved for their commitment and contributions over the years.



The legislature disbanded the Patient-Centered Health Advisory Council July 1st.

## Iowa Medicaid

### IA Health Link Open Choice Period

Effective July 1, 2019, Amerigroup Iowa and Iowa Total Care are the Managed Care Organizations serving the IA Health Link and Hawki programs. UnitedHealthcare is no longer an option. All members in the IA Health Link program are in an Open Choice Period. Members have until August 19, 2019, to make a choice effective September 1, 2019. After that, members can change their MCO for any reason until September 30, 2019. For more information, visit <https://dhs.iowa.gov/iahealthlink/memberchoice>.



### MCO Quarterly Reports

Performance monitoring and data analysis are critical components in assessing how well Iowa's MCOs are maintaining and improving the quality of care delivered to members. The quarterly reports, with a number of elements required through oversight legislation, are comprehensive and focus on compliance areas, as well as health outcomes over time.



### Iowa Medical Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC)

The purpose of MAAC is to "Advise the Director of the Department of Human Services about health and medical care services under the medical assistance program." MAAC is mandated by federal law and further established in Iowa Code. All MAAC meetings are open to the public. For more information and to view the meeting schedule, visit [https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/advisory\\_groups/maac](https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/advisory_groups/maac).

### Iowa Council on Human Services

DHS coordinates the Iowa Council on Human Services, which acts in a policymaking and decision-making capacity on matters within the jurisdiction of DHS. For more information and meeting dates, visit <http://dhs.iowa.gov/about/dhs-council>.

### Managed Care Ombudsman Reports

The Managed Care Ombudsman Program advocates for the rights and needs of Medicaid managed care members in Iowa who live or receive care in a health care facility, assisted living program or elder group home, as well as members enrolled in one of Medicaid's seven home and community-based services waiver programs. The Managed Care Ombudsman Program develops monthly and quarterly reports, which can be accessed [here](#).

### DHS Now Accepting Medicaid Premiums Online

Iowa Health and Wellness Plan members and Dental Wellness Plan members that receive a monthly billing statement in the mail can now make their contribution online. Make a payment online at any time using the department's DHS Services Portal. For more information, see the [ClickPay User Guide](#).



## Iowa News

### 211 Iowa App

A free [211 Iowa app](#) is now available to provide up-to-date information on local health and human services for anyone in Iowa seeking help. The 211 app provides access to more than 12,000 programs in Iowa. Once downloaded from an app store onto a smartphone, a user can enter their location and then search for services based on their needs by category. Each category will bring up a list of programs in their area. 211 is available nationwide and can also be accessed by dialing 2-1-1 from any phone, by visiting [211iowa.org](#) or by texting your ZIP code to 898211. Help navigators are available any time of day and trained to assist individuals in connecting to local services. An interpretation service supports more than 150 languages.

For an instructional video about how to use the app and for information to share with others, visit [211app.org](#).



### County Results from the 2018 Iowa Youth Survey

The 2018 Iowa Youth Survey (IYS) county reports are designed to help local and state-level planners, community agencies and school personnel identify youth development needs, implement relevant, targeted interventions, and assess outcomes. IYS data can assist in providing a better understanding of students in Iowa and their needs. It can also help to assess the strengths and challenges of schools, families and communities from the young person's perspective. In addition, IYS data may be used to obtain funding for a wide variety of programs and services. The Iowa Youth Survey has proven to be a valuable resource in youth needs assessment, program development, implementation and outcome evaluation. To access county reports, visit [http://www.iowayouthsurvey.iowa.gov/counties/county\\_2018.html](http://www.iowayouthsurvey.iowa.gov/counties/county_2018.html).

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## Federal News

### Price and Quality Transparency

On June 24, 2019, President Trump issued an [executive order](#) on health care price and quality transparency. The White House also posted a [fact sheet](#) alongside the order. The goal of the executive order is to help consumers know the prices and quality of a good or service, and to make informed decisions about their health care. The executive order is consistent with recent rules to, for instance, require drug manufacturers to disclose list prices in their advertisements or require hospitals to publish list prices on their websites.

### Return on Investment Calculator to Address Social Determinants of Health

The Commonwealth Fund released a new Return on Investment (ROI) calculator to help community-based organizations and their health system partners plan sustainable financial arrangements to fund the delivery of social services to high-need, high-cost patients. These patients account for a large share of overall health care spending and often have social needs, clinically complex conditions, cognitive or physical limitations, and/or behavioral health problems. Research shows that complex patients are likely to benefit from a holistic model of care that addresses the social determinants of health such as transportation, housing and nutrition, in addition to medical needs. The ROI calculator can be accessed here: <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/roi-calculator>.

### North Carolina Waiver to Address Social Determinants of Health

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a [Section 1115 waiver](#) for North Carolina on October 19, 2018, that includes an innovative new pilot program. Embedded in the larger waiver, which is focused primarily on managed care and substance use disorder services, is a \$650 million pilot program designed to promote efforts to address the social determinants of health for high-risk, high-cost beneficiaries. It is the first significant waiver-based program targeting social determinants in the Trump Administration and could be a model for other states' initiatives. For more information, visit <https://www.kff.org/report-section/a-first-look-at-north-carolinas-section-1115-medicare-waivers-healthy-opportunities-pilots-issue-brief/>.

### New Report: How Much U.S. Households with Employer Insurance Spend on Premiums and Out-of-Pocket Costs

A new report from the Commonwealth Fund highlights that millions of Americans with employer health coverage are spending large shares of their income on health care costs. The analysis looks at what people in every state report spending on premiums and out-of-pocket costs for medications, copays, and dental and vision care. The report can be accessed here: <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2019/may/how-much-us-households-employer-insurance-spend-premiums-out-of-pocket>.

## Contact Information

For more information on the work of IDPH's Office of Health Care Transformation, visit <http://idph.iowa.gov/ohct>