



September 30, 2013

The Message

Maryland's hospitals play a vital role in their communities, providing not only access to needed health care services but also connections to health coverage. Getting people covered is at the heart of health care reform. We're here to help guide patients and their family members through these new health coverage options.

- Maryland's hospitals are committed to the goal of enhanced access to health coverage for all Marylanders to improve population health, enhance the patient experience, and lower health care costs.
- Hospitals have trusted relationships with our communities and often are the first place uninsured patients connect with the health care system.
- Maryland's hospitals have been working with Maryland Health Connection and our local Regional Connector Entities to raise awareness about expansion to individuals newly eligible for health coverage.
- Many Maryland hospitals are working with Maryland Health Connection to become designated as Certified Application Counselor Sponsoring Entities, so hospital staff can serve as Certified Application Counselors to help patients determine their eligibility for Medicaid and subsidized coverage through Maryland Health Connection.
- Maryland Health Connection expects to launch the Certified Application Counselor Program within the next year. In the meantime, our staff is here to help and will guide patients and their families to the appropriate resources on how to enroll in new health care coverage options within our community.
- Maryland's hospitals support health care reform because we see every day the harm that's done when people don't have health insurance. Our job is to take care of people, and part of that job is helping them stay well.
- Obtaining health insurance is important for all Marylanders because it gives you protection and peace of mind if you or a family member gets sick or has an accident, and makes sure you get the proper health care you need, when you need it.
- Health insurance makes it easier for individuals to get preventative care, like flu shots, cancer screenings, and regular checkups that can keep you healthy or find problems before they become serious.