

Q. My child was covered by CMS for evaluation of a heart murmur two years ago. Does my child automatically qualify for evaluation and/or treatment of another condition now?

A. Eligibility must be updated each year. In addition, not all medical conditions qualify a child for our services.

Q. One of my children is currently eligible for CMS services: Does this qualify my other children for services?

A. Not necessarily. The nature of the child's medical condition makes a difference.

Q. How do I apply for assistance?

A. Applications are available at your local health department, the hospital clinic or department of social work. You may also call the CMS Central Office at 410-767-1818 if you would like an application mailed to you.



We are committed to assisting Maryland families who have children with chronic medical problems or disabling conditions. We welcome your application.



The rules which govern our program activities are printed in the Code of Maryland Regulations, 10.11.03.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS CONTACT:

The Office of Children's Health, Children's Medical Services Program
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 West Preston Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Or...

Call the
Children's Health Resource Line at
1-800-638-8864.

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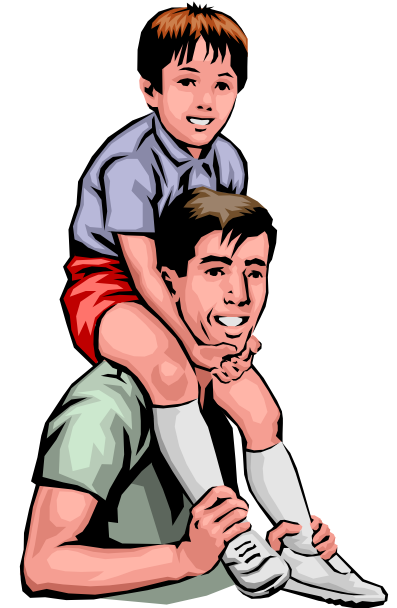


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Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Georges Benjamin, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Secretary, DHMH

Children's Medical Services Program



The Office of Children's Health

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene



What is Children's Medical Services (CMS)?

The Children's Medical Services Program is a joint federal/state/local program that has been in operation in Maryland since 1937. CMS assists families in planning and obtaining specialty medical and rehabilitative care for children who have chronic illnesses or disabling conditions, which interfere with normal growth and development. The program has both medical and financial eligibility requirements. If your child needs special medical or rehabilitative services that you cannot afford, you should not hesitate to contact CMS for information about programs that your child may qualify for.



On the following pages are answers to questions frequently asked about the CMS Program. We hope that you will find answers to some of your own questions about our services.

Q. Does CMS cover all childhood illnesses?

A. We assist families who have a child (or children) with a variety of disabling or long-term conditions, but we do not cover common childhood illnesses such as colds, flu, injuries, etc.

Q. What are examples of conditions CMS covers?

- A. Cerebral Palsy
- Orofacial Anomalies
- Speech/Language Problems
- Spina Bifida
- Heart Disease/Defects
- Hearing Impairment
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Chronic Renal Disease
- Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder

There are additional diagnoses that may qualify your child for CMS services.

Q. How can I find out if my child's medical problem is covered?

- A. Check with your local health department. Community Health Nurses assist us in implementing our program statewide. Or, you may call the CMS Central Office at 410-767-1818 or 1-800-638-8864.

Q. What are the CMS requirements?

- A. Here are the basics:
 1. Your child must have or be suspected of having a condition which is chronic and / or disabling;
 2. You must qualify financially on the basis of family income and expenses;
 3. Your child must be a Maryland resident between 0-21 years of age;

4. You must file an application and be determined CMS eligible before treatment is begun;
5. All services must be preauthorized;
6. Other financial resources such as Medicaid or Health Insurance, which may cover your child, must be used first to pay for services.

Q. If my income places me above the CMS financial eligibility scale, does that mean that I should not apply?



- A. Not at all. We take into account your medical expenses for the entire family and we make allowance for work expenses, childcare, etc. Out of pocket medical expenses can also be deducted.

Q. Does CMS cover dental care?

- A. We cover dental care for eligible children who have disabling conditions that prevent them from receiving care in an ordinary dental office. Special dental clinics are approved to provide this care. We also purchase dental care for eligible children with oral facial anomalies such as cleft palate.

Special Note to New Maryland Immigrants: Maryland residency *does not mean* that the child must be a US citizen or alien of lawful immigration status.