



CHOICESM
Health Plans

Provider News

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New VNSNY CHOICE Medicare Plans Go Live

On January 1, VNSNY CHOICE began serving members in two new Medicare Advantage (MA) plans: **VNSNY CHOICE EasyCare (HMO)**, for people with Medicare, and **VNSNY CHOICE EasyCare Plus (HMO D-SNP)**, for people with both Medicaid and Medicare.

With **VNSNY CHOICE Total (HMO D-SNP)** for dually eligible people needing ongoing help with daily activities, New Yorkers with Medicare now have three high-quality CHOICE plans to choose from.

Most of our Medicare members **pay nothing or have low costs** for premiums, deductibles and pharmacy co-pays, depending on how much Extra Help/Low Income Subsidy (LIS) they qualify for. They also

have access to **valuable extras** that make healthy living easier, including:

- **Benefits beyond what's covered by regular Medicare**, such as prescription drug coverage, dental, vision, hearing, podiatry and acupuncture
- **Transportation to and from doctors' offices**, from 7 round trips each year to an unlimited number, depending on the plan
- **OTC or OTC/Grocery Card**, offering up to \$2,160 a year for over-the-counter items like pain medicine and toothpaste and even healthy groceries like fresh produce and home-delivered healthy meal boxes, depending on the plan
- Membership in **SilverSneakers® Fitness Program**, which offers both in-person and online exercise classes

Highest Rating for Medicare HMO Plans in NYC and LI

Every year Medicare ranks health plans based on a 5-star rating system. More stars mean a better plan. VNSNY CHOICE Medicare is proud to be rated **4.5 out of 5 stars overall for 2022**, the highest rating of Medicare HMO plans in New York City and Long Island.

Click on the button below for more detailed information about VNSNY CHOICE Medicare Plans.

[**Compare our Medicare Plans**](#)

If you have patients who would benefit from our Medicare plans, please suggest they call

1-718-4CHOICE
(TTY: 711)

8 am to 8 pm, 7 days a week

Patients Can Earn Rewards for Wellness Visits and Screenings

Now is a good time to make sure your patients have their annual wellness visit. If you have a patient who is a member of SelectHealth or one of our CHOICE Medicare Advantage plans, their annual wellness visit can even earn them rewards as part of their plan's incentive program. Your CHOICE patients may also be able to earn rewards for certain tests and screenings.

We will do our part in encouraging members of each of these plans to schedule their annual wellness visit early.

Address Gaps in Care During Telehealth Visits

Key to closing HEDIS gaps is documentation. If you see a patient via telehealth, you can take that opportunity to close gaps in care by making sure you document the following kinds of information in their medical record:

- **Controlling High Blood Pressure** – document readings the patient takes using a digital blood pressure device
- **Care of Older Adults: Medication Review** – document, review and reconcile all prescription and over the counter medications
- **Transitions of Care: Medication Reconciliation Post-Discharge** – document any recent hospital discharges and complete a review and reconciliation of all current and discharge medications

Do You Have a CHOICE Medicare Patient Who Might Benefit from Hospice or Palliative Care?

Last year, **VNSNY CHOICE Total** began offering a hospice benefit, designed to streamline coordination and payment of hospice services, for members with end-stage conditions. This year, any member of VNSNY CHOICE Medicare, including members of **EasyCare** and **EasyCare Plus**, will have this benefit available if they need it.

The Medicare hospice benefit actually has two components:

- **Hospice care**

- **Palliative care, which can be for any patient with a serious illness;** it does not require a terminal prognosis and may be provided alongside curative treatment

Palliative care services are home-based and provided by VNSNY. If you have a VNSNY CHOICE Medicare patient who you think would benefit from palliative care, please send your name and phone number, along with the patient's name, date of birth, CHOICE ID (if available), diagnosis, address and telephone number, to VNSNYpalliativecare@vnsny.org.

If you have a VNSNY CHOICE Medicare patient who you think would benefit from hospice care, we currently have two hospice providers in our Medicare network:

- [VNSNY Hospice Care](#). For more information or to refer a CHOICE Medicare patient, call **212-609-1920**.
- [MJHS Hospice Care](#). For more information or to refer a CHOICE Medicare patient, call **855-921-4057**.

Note that out-of-network hospice services are also covered.

For more information about the CHOICE Hospice and Palliative Care Benefit, go to vnsnychoice.org/hospice-benefit.

Your Patients May be Surveyed about Your Services

Beginning in March and continuing into June, VNSNY CHOICE Total enrollees may receive a **Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS)** survey from Symphony Performance Health on behalf of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services concerning their Medicare and Part D plans. This survey asks for feedback on, among other things, the quality and accessibility of the services they receive from care providers and health plans.

If any patient asks about the surveys, please ask them to contact their CHOICE Total Care Team at **1-866-783-1444 (TTY 711)**.

**Clinical Practice Guidelines Now
Available in One Document**

VNSNY CHOICE Clinical Practice and Preventive Health Guidelines is a handy tool that includes links to current evidence-based practice information on a wide range of conditions and treatments, from Diabetes to Sexually Transmitted Infections, as well as preventive care guidelines for Falls Prevention, Smoking Cessation, and much more.

Click on the button below to access the document.

VNSNY CHOICE Clinical Practice and Preventive Health Guidelines.

NYS Honors CHOICE CMO Jay Dobkin with Special Recognition Award on World AIDS Day

On World AIDS Day, Wednesday, December 1st, VNSNY's Chief Medical Officer, Jay Dobkin, MD, received a Commissioner's Special Recognition Award from the New York State Department of Health for his commitment, research, and significant contributions in the field of HIV/AIDS.

Every year, this award recognizes individuals who are leaders in promoting improvements in HIV health, LGBT health, substance-user health, youth sexual health, trauma-informed care, and the prevention and treatment of Hepatitis C and STIs.

Heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Dobkin for this well-deserved honor!

PrEP to Prevent HIV and Promote Sexual Health

If your patient is HIV negative but at increased risk for contracting HIV, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is a safe, daily pill that protects them from HIV. It's a powerful tool in helping to *End the AIDS Epidemic* as well as to help them take control of their sexual health.

Studies have shown that PrEP is safe and reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by about 99% when taken daily (CDC). The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute has released guidance and other resources for PrEP which [you can find here](#).

Registration as a PrEP provider makes it easier for patients who need a prescription to find you. Visit the AIDS Institute Provider Directory to register as a PrEP prescriber today:

[Register as a PrEP Prescriber with the AIDS Institute](#)

More information about PrEP:

[AIDS Institute: PrEP to Prevent HIV and Promote Sexual Health](#) (Website)

[NYSDOH: PrEP For Clinicians](#) (Website)

[NYSDOH: PrEP for Medical Providers](#) (PDF)

Reminder: Medicare Model of Care Provider Education and Attestation

Each year, **all Medicare providers** are required to complete a training in the current Medicare Advantage Plan Model of Care (MOC) and to attest that they have taken the training.

If you have not done so, please complete and attest to the MOC training by clicking on the button below.

[Medicare MOC Training and Attestation](#)

Questions?

Contact VNSNY CHOICE Provider Services

Call toll free: **1-866-783-0222** (TTY: **711**)

Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm

[Use the VNSNY CHOICE Provider Portal](#)

[Click here for our Provider Quick Reference Guide](#)

**Thank you for being part of the
VNSNY CHOICE Provider network!**

We want to make this publication useful to you. Please let us know what you think! Write to us at CHOICEProviderNews@vnsny.org.

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VNSNY CHOICE Health Plans | 220 East 42nd Street, Third Floor, New York, NY 10017

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