

## FIDA ARTICLE

### PARTICIPANT NEWSLETTER (596 WORDS)

#### **Health care centered on you. . . Introducing Fully Integrated Duals Advantage (FIDA)**

Making decisions about long-term care can be confusing and frustrating for you and your family.

The New York State Department of Health is partnering with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to do something about it. The Department of Health is offering a program for people who receive services through both Medicare and Medicaid. It's called the "Fully Integrated Duals Advantage" program, or "FIDA" for short.

#### **You won't lose your current benefits... in fact, you can get more**

With FIDA, you can keep all your current Medicaid and Medicare benefits and services – such as doctor and hospital visits, home health and nursing home care, behavioral health, and prescription drugs. Plus, you can also receive other services that you may one day need, with no copayments/coinsurance, deductibles or premiums. For example:

- Respite services to provide temporary relief for your caregivers
- Wellness counseling from a registered nurse who will help you have a healthier lifestyle

#### **Why should you join FIDA?**

FIDA's goal is to give you the services and supports you need so that you can remain independent and living in your community.

#### **If you join the FIDA program, you will:**

- Receive full Medicare and Medicaid coverage, long term services and supports, Part D and Medicaid drugs, and additional benefits from a single, integrated managed care plan. In other words, FIDA covers all the benefits that you may receive through your Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) plan, Original Medicare or your Medicare Advantage plan, and Part D plan.
- Have a Care Manager who can schedule doctor's appointments, arrange transportation and help you get your medicine. (In most cases, you will be able to keep your current care manager.)
- Have your Medicare and Medicaid doctors and specialists on your care team. All of whom will be able to share with each other their professional opinions about your health condition. That way, they can create the most complete care package for you.

- Add your caregivers or anyone you trust, like your friends and relatives, to your care team. They will be able to stay with you during the care team meetings and help you make the right decisions about your care.
- Use one phone number to call the plan for all questions regarding your benefits.
- Have the right to leave FIDA at any time and for any reason. If you decide to do so, you will continue to receive all of your Medicaid long term care benefits through the MLTC program and all of your Medicare benefits through Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan, and a Part D plan.

### **Who can join FIDA?**

You are eligible to join FIDA if you are:

- Age 21 or older
- Living in New York City or Nassau County. The program will expand to Westchester and Suffolk counties later this year.
- Receiving Medicare and Medicaid benefits
- In need of long term care like home health or nursing home care

### **Is FIDA Mandatory?**

No, FIDA is a voluntary program. You may opt out or opt in to the FIDA program at any time.

### **How do I join FIDA? What if I have questions?**

Please call NY Medicaid Choice at 1-855-600-3432 (TTY users: 1-888-329-1541) or Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN) at 1-844-614-8800 to learn more about this new exciting opportunity and see if the FIDA program can help you today.

If you have questions regarding FIDA, please email the New York State Department of Health at: [fida@health.ny.gov](mailto:fida@health.ny.gov) or visit the FIDA website at: [https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/redesign/fida/](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/fida/)