Cover Oregon Changes’ Effects on Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid
OHA Information Update - April 29, 2014

The Cover Oregon Board of Directors has made the decision to stop further development on the current state website for private health care coverage. Instead, beginning with the November open enrollment period, Cover Oregon will use the federal exchange technology.

Additionally, the Oregon Health Authority will take over Medicaid eligibility determinations later this year. That means new enrollments will happen through an OHA portal rather than through Cover Oregon.

Nothing is changing immediately. There will be a transition period this year. Until the transition occurs, Cover Oregon will continue to be the portal for new enrollments.

There are approximately 920,000 Oregonians who count on the Oregon Health Plan for their coverage, and about 300,000 of them gained coverage since January 1.

Q&A

When will the Oregon Health Authority begin determining eligibility for OHP?
Before the end of 2014 but not right away. We will create a transition plan and will give plenty of advance notice before the switch for staff, potential clients, stakeholders and community partners.

Where can people get information about this change?
We will post the most current information at OHP.Oregon.Gov.

Does this change affect the benefits that Oregon Health Plan clients receive?
No. Benefits will not be affected in any way. People who are enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan will continue to be enrolled.

Will OHP clients who enrolled through Cover Oregon have to do anything?
They won’t. Current OHP clients are already in the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) computer system. When it is time for their annual redetermination, OHA will send them a notice with information about what to do.

Where should people go today to apply for new OHP benefits?
People should continue to apply for OHP through Cover Oregon. The current system will remain until the transition occurs.
If people have already submitted an application to Cover Oregon, do they need to apply again?
No. Cover Oregon is still open for business and will process your application. There is no need to apply again.

Will CoverOregon.com continue to be a website for people to get access to health care coverage?
Yes. After the transition, people will still be able to go to CoverOregon.com and learn how to enroll in Oregon health care coverage, whether OHP or private plans.

Will OHA and DHS go back to processing Medicaid eligibility through the DHS field offices?
No. The eligibility process will continue to be centralized through OHA.

How many OHP enrollments are coming through Cover Oregon?
About half of the new OHP enrollments since Jan. 1, 2014, came through the Cover Oregon system. Most of the rest came through the “fast-track” enrollment process.

How will this transition be managed?
OHA will work with a cross-agency project team, the state CIO, and a system integrator to determine how to adapt the Cover Oregon Medicaid eligibility system and maintain the client-facing application portal.

I am enrolled in a private plan that I applied for through Cover Oregon. What do I need to do?
You don’t need to do anything right now. Your coverage is intact. You can go to CoverOregon.com for more information.

What does this change mean for Cover Oregon?
Cover Oregon will no longer be in the technology business. But it will retain front-end customer outreach and education, initial management of private insurance plans and some oversight of those private plans.