**Partnership for Petersburg**

Since the launch of Governor Glenn Youngkin’s “Partnership for Petersburg” in 2022, DMAS remains focused on:

1. Improving Petersburg maternal and infant health outcomes.

2. Providing Primary Care Services, Mobile Health Clinics, and Community Events

3. Expanding School-Based Clinic Services.

In November 2023, DMAS worked with Dr. Bazile, Bon Secours Southside on a pilot offering extended OB/GYN clinic days. Additional clinics were held in January and June with another planned for the fall. DMAS along with the health plans began another targeted campaign for pregnant women.  August mailings which resulted in 220 maternity members receiving outreach aimed at improving prenatal and postpartum utilization. DMAS, MCOs, DentaQuest, and Conexus participated in over 500 community health-related events and mobile clinics for a total commitment/contribution of over $4,000,000.

**Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwinding of the Continuous Coverage Requirement**

The Unwinding of the Continuous Coverage Requirements has been in effect since March of 2023. Virginia has implemented its last month of redeterminations related to unwinding, and the work is focusing on cleaning up the backlog of members not redetermined at this time.

As of 08/21/2024, 2,100,851 members have been redetermined of the 2,166,381 unwinding cohort as of 03/2023. (Note: this cohort is only individuals who were active and expected to receive a redetermination during unwinding. This does not include any new members added to the enrollment population since March of 2023.) Out of the members redetermined, 1,623,868 members retained coverage and 476,983 members were closed. Overall, Virginia has completed 96.98% of all redeterminations needed for the unwinding cohort, which is due to the amazing work DMAS, VDSS, Cover Virginia has done, as well as the invaluable collaborations with stakeholders, advocates, and managed care health plans to ensure all eligible Virginians have access to high quality health care.

DMAS has taken down many PHE and unwinding related resources, however, the federal flexibilities allowed for redeterminations have been extended through June 30, 2025, and the list of flexibilities can be found at Medicaid.gov. Redeterminations are a regularly occurring annual process, so while the unwinding related redeterminations have been initiated, this serves as a reminder to tell members to continue to update their contact information, report changes, and read and respond (if applicable) to all mail they receive.

**Child Health Updates**

The Early Intervention Program Manual updates have been finalized as of 8/28/24 and posted on MES. The telehealth supplement has been updated on the DMAS website as it was previously outdated. DMAS is currently working on training development around the EPSDT benefit, as well as updating the DMAS website to provide member/provider education around the EPSDT benefit.

Maternal Child Health unit continues to work with state agencies to minimize concerns around provider/member issues.

**EPSDT Mailbox:**

Please reach out to our EPSDT mailbox at [EPSDT@dmas.virginia.gov](mailto:EPSDT@dmas.virginia.gov) for inquiries around the benefit.

**Early Intervention Mailbox:**

Also, for Early Intervention inquiries, please contact [M4EarlyIntervention@dmas.virginia.gov](mailto:M4EarlyIntervention@dmas.virginia.gov).

**Provider Manuals**:

<https://vamedicaid.dmas.virginia.gov/>

**Foster Care Program Updates**

Former Foster Care Youth Coverage Update: In July Virginia finalized the draft “Building and Transforming Coverage, Services, and Supports for a Healthier Virginia” 1115 Demonstration Waiver Renewal Application, seeking a five-year extension of the current demonstration authority through December 31, 2029. With this renewal application, Virginia seeks to extend the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Former Foster Care Youth (FFCY) components of the current 1115 demonstration. Specifically, this demonstration extension will continue to provide essential SUD services to all Medicaid enrollees through the ARTS benefit, and maintain authority for coverage of Former Foster Care Youth who aged out of foster care in another state and turned 18 prior to January 1, 2023. Virginia Medicaid provided an opportunity for the public to review and provide input on the Demonstration application. Virginia hosted two public hearings (6/18 and 6/26) to review and seek input on the Demonstration and provide an overview of the populations served. The draft Renewal Application is available on Medicaid.gov here: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/demonstration-and-waiver-list/83451>. Virginia’s overall goal for the FFCY benefit is to provide former foster care youth with the access to health services they need, through the Demonstration Waiver.

Foster Care College Launch Project: This summer, DMAS completed the second annual Foster Care College Launch project to support the health, well-being, and independence of youth in foster care transitioning into adulthood. With the assistance of the Department of Social Services, ten (10) members in foster care were identified who are attending a 4-year college this fall. The DMAS Executive Leadership Team partnered with an upcoming VCU freshman in the Fostering Futures program with Richmond City DSS. DMAS worked with this member to identify any individualized needs going into the school year and was able to provide this member with their first semester textbooks and other school and apartment supplies. DMAS has also remained in contact with the member they partnered with last year, who is returning to Old Dominion University for his Sophomore year, to provide continued and ongoing support. Information for all other members attending college this year (and their DSS worker) was provided to their respective health plans for the health plans to initiate any voluntary, individualized support and outreach for their assigned members attending college this year. DMAS is proud to support our members as they transition to a healthy and successful college experience. These gifts allowed each sponsored member to begin the school year equipped with direct contact with DMAS as well as resources and supplies to support their success.

**Baby Steps Virginia – Maternal Health**

Virginia Medicaid continues to recognize the importance of addressing infant and maternal health in a holistic way. While focusing on the needs of pregnant and postpartum women, Baby Steps VA emphasizes “wellness, one step at a time. Our “rainbow” arc aims to ensure pregnant women and new parents feel supported by their communities from preconception, pregnancy, and parenting and beyond.

* Upcoming Baby Steps VA Meetings
  + Friday September 13th from 10-11:30am
  + Friday November 15th from 10-11:30 am

If you are interested in being added to the listserv to receive newsletters, DMAS maternal health updates, and meeting invites please email [BabySteps@dmas.virginia.gov](mailto:BabySteps@dmas.virginia.gov)

FFS BabyCare (BC) program offers case management for high-risk mothers (12 months postpartum) and their infant (up to two years of age), along with expanded prenatal services for pregnant and postpartum persons. DMAS and VDH have continued to collaborate on these efforts to support members and local health district providers.   
•  Updates to current provider manual   
•  Provider factsheet on BC services and billing

**Community Doula Program**

Virginia Medicaid’s Community Doula Program remains committed to expanding the network of Medicaid Doula providers, and increasing the accessibility of doula services for pregnant individuals in VA. To date, 174 doulas have received Virginia state certification through VDH. Of those, 137 are approved for Medicaid reimbursement.

Virgina Medicaid is excited to announce the recent launch of Germanna Community College Doula Certification Program on August 5, 2024. Registration exceeded expectations and resulted in a full first cohort (12) and a waiting list for two additional trainings. Student observation through the Labor and Delivery Unit at Mary Washington Hospital is uniquely offered as part of this doula training.

The program was developed by Germanna Community College, in partnership with Rappahannock Health District, Mary Washington Hospital, and the State departments of Health (VDH), and **Department of** **Medical Assistance Services (DMAS).**The course utilizes local doula trainers, Germanna faculty/staff and the local hospital system. Student scholarships were provided by Medicaid MCOs and the Rappahannock Health District.

This promising new approach of utilizing the community college system for doula state certification training offers greater access and accessibility to doula training throughout the state.

**Dental Coverage**

Virginia’s Medicaid dental program recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of the new dental contract with DentaQuest. Network adequacy remains a top concern within the program. The dental program has surpassed the 2,000-provider mark for the first time since 2018 and currently has 2,198 credentialed providers in the program. DMAS’ dental program understands that having a consistent source of dental care is the strongest predictor of a dental visit in a previous 12-month period. As a part of the new dental contract with DentaQuest, the dental program has introduced the dental home program for our members. Members will always be able to choose to see any participating provider; however, for members who do not select a provider, the member will be assigned to a higher performing provider with a proven track record of ensuring that their patients receive care according to the periodicity schedule.

The dental program understands that oral health is connected to systemic health and well-being and that improved medical and dental care integration leads to better health outcomes. To that end, DentaQuest introduced the Smiling Stork program which addresses early interventions to oral healthcare and promotes healthy pregnancies. This program aims to educate pregnant members about the association between dental disease and pre-term deliveries and/or low birth weight, the importance of being screened for periodontal disease during pregnancy, how to access covered dental services during pregnancy, and how to establish good oral health habits for their babies.

Finally, to better align with the agency and reflect the population in which we serve, Virginia’s Medicaid dental program changed its name from Smiles for Children for Cardinal Care Smiles.