

UnitedHealthcare recently announced it will exit Mississippi's Health Insurance Exchange, also known as the federally facilitated marketplace, on Jan. 1, 2017. Currently, UnitedHealthcare is one of three insurance companies offering individual policies in the state through the federal marketplace, and the only one that covers all 82 counties.

**UnitedHealthcare's departure from the federal marketplace will have no effect on Mississippi Medicaid beneficiaries enrolled in the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan through MississippiCAN or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).**

The Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM) presently contracts with UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Mississippi as one of two Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), which administer the agency's managed care program, MississippiCAN, and CHIP. The other CCO is Magnolia Health.

Individual UnitedHealthcare plans offered through the federal marketplace until January 2017 are different from MississippiCAN's UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Mississippi.

This exit does not impact MississippiCAN's UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Mississippi. Beneficiaries and providers enrolled with MississippiCAN or CHIP do not need to switch to Magnolia.

MississippiCAN was authorized by the Mississippi Legislature in 2011. As of January 2016, there are 506,798 beneficiaries enrolled in MississippiCAN, representing about 65 percent of the total Medicaid population.

If you have questions, please contact us toll-free at 800-421-2408 or 601-359-6050. Learn more about the Mississippi Division of Medicaid at <http://medicaid.ms.gov>.

**History of the Health Insurance Exchange**

When the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law in 2010, it required every state to set up a health insurance marketplace or health exchange to provide uninsured residents an option of standardized health-care plans offering insurance policies that are eligible for federal subsidies. Each state had the option of creating their own exchange in compliance with the law, or the federal government would run the exchange for them. Enrollment in Mississippi's federally-run Health Insurance Exchange began October 1, 2013.

**Contact Information**

All inquiries made by the news media should be directed to Erin Barham, deputy administrator for communications at [erin.barham@medicaid.ms.com](mailto:erin.barham@medicaid.ms.com), or Matt Westerfield, associate communications officer, at [matt.westerfield@medicaid.ms.com](mailto:matt.westerfield@medicaid.ms.com).

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5/31/2016

Please forward this message to colleagues who might be interested. If you wish to be removed from this list or know of a colleague to add, send an email message to: [erin.barham@medicaid.ms.gov](mailto:erin.barham@medicaid.ms.gov).

### **About Mississippi Division of Medicaid**

Medicaid is a state and federal program created by the Social Security Amendments of 1965, authorized by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, to provide health coverage for eligible, low income populations. In 1969, Medicaid was enacted by the Mississippi Legislature. All 50 states, five territories of the United States and District of Columbia participate in this voluntary matching program. The mission of the Mississippi Division of Medicaid is to responsibly provide access to quality health coverage for vulnerable Mississippians, by conducting operations with accountability, consistency and respect.