

Fact Sheet: **Children's Medical Services Program**

What is Children's Medical Services?

Children's Medical Services (CMS) is a program of the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). CMS is Georgia's state and federally funded Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs program. CMS provides specialty healthcare for children and youth who have eligible chronic medical conditions and whose families have lower incomes.

What Services does CMS provide?

CMS may provide or help pay for:

- ✓ Care coordination
- ✓ Medical evaluations and diagnostic testing
- ✓ Hospitalizations, surgeries and medications
- ✓ Therapy services and other medical treatments
- ✓ Medical equipment, medical supplies, hearing aids and genetic counseling

Who is Eligible for CMS?

Children and youth, birth to 21 years of age, who are residents of Georgia and meet both medical and financial requirements, are eligible for CMS.

- ✓ Chronic medical conditions that are eligible for CMS include, but are not limited to:
 - Asthma, cystic fibrosis and other lung disorders
 - Neurological disorders including seizures, benign tumors, hydrocephalus, and others
 - Orthopedic and/or neuromuscular disorders including cerebral palsy, spina bifida, scoliosis, clubfeet, congenital or traumatic amputations of limbs, and others
 - Some vision and hearing disorders
 - Diabetes and other endocrine and genetic disorders
 - Craniofacial anomalies such as cleft lip/palate
 - Congenital cardiac conditions
- ✓ To be eligible financially,
 - Your family income must be less than 236% of the Federal Poverty guidelines. These guidelines are updated every year. Someone at the local health department office will work with you to figure out if you meet this requirement.
 - Children who are enrolled in Medicaid or PeachCare, who receive SSI, and who are in foster care are financially eligible for CMS services.
 - Depending on your family's income, you may be asked to share in the cost of care. For example, in 2011, a family of four with an annual income above \$33,525 may have to pay a certain amount for services. Someone at your CMS office will be able to determine how much, if any, you will have to pay.

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Why Should I Enroll My Child in CMS?

CMS Care Coordinators will help you develop a plan for your child that includes goals and desired outcomes. Your Care Coordinator will help you implement the plan, find services and providers, access other funding sources, and coordinate with specialty care providers. CMS can also provide or assist with services, supplies, and other supports that your child's Medicaid, PeachCare or insurance may not cover.

I've Referred My Child to CMS. What Happens Next? What Can I Expect?

Your family will be offered a home visit by a CMS Coordinator to get your child enrolled. During the home visit, the CMS Coordinator will talk with you about your needs and your child's needs. The Coordinator will help you develop a care plan for your child. The coordinator will contact you at least every six months to talk about your needs and progress toward goals. You may also contact your coordinator any time to assist with any health concerns or needs.

When your child is 16 years old, your Care Coordinator will help you develop a plan for his or her transition to all aspects of adulthood including healthcare services. This can involve transferring to adult doctors and specialty care, applying for adult benefits or insurance, and helping your child to begin to make decisions and take responsibility for his or her own health.

What families think about CMS:

"CMS is a great organization. My coordinator is a great resource for me and the other families she serves."

"They gave me the chance to reach out for help from others, and boosted my confidence to care for my daughter's needs."

How Do I Enroll My Child in CMS?

There are 18 CMS offices located throughout Georgia. Contact the office that services the county where you live to start the process. You can find the list of offices online at

<http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/familyhealth/csncoordinator.pdf> or you can call CMS at the numbers below.

Where do I go for more information?

Parent to Parent of Georgia
770-451-5484 or 800-229-2038
www.p2pga.org

Georgia Department of Public Health
Children's Medical Services
404-657-4855 or 1-888-651-8224
<http://www.health.state.ga.us/programs/cms>