



**AmeriHealth Caritas™**  
District of Columbia

**To:** All AmeriHealth Caritas DC Providers  
**Date:** May 17, 2017  
**Subject:** Member “Freedom of Choice” Reminder

**Summary:** As a reminder, Medicaid beneficiaries have freedom of choice when it comes to selecting a family planning provider. The selected family planning practitioner is not required to be part of our participating provider network.

**Background:**

The Social Security Act states Medicaid beneficiaries generally have the right to obtain medical services “from any institution, agency, community pharmacy, or person, qualified to perform the service or services required . . . who undertakes to provide . . . such services.” This provision is often referred to as the “any willing provider” or “free choice of provider” provision.

Implementing regulations at 42 C.F.R. § 431.51(b)(1) require a state plan to allow a beneficiary to obtain Medicaid services from any institution, agency, pharmacy, person, or organization that is (i) qualified to furnish services and (ii) willing to furnish them to that particular beneficiary.

There is an exception for beneficiaries enrolled in certain managed care plans (that permits such plans to restrict beneficiaries to providers in the managed care plan network), except that such plans cannot restrict free choice of family planning providers. Section 1902(a)(23) of the Social Security Act provides that a recipient in a Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) may not be denied freedom of choice of qualified providers of family planning services.

**Impact:**

Both male and female members can see any family planning provider that treats Medicaid beneficiaries, regardless of whether or not the provider participates in the AmeriHealth Caritas DC network.

Female members also have access to obtain a 12 month supply, at one time, of their prescription for contraceptives. Access to a 12 month supply applies to both Medicaid and Alliance members. Please see the [AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia Drug Formulary](#) for a full list of covered contraceptives.

**Questions:**

If you have questions about this communication, please contact your AmeriHealth Caritas DC Provider Account Executive or Provider Services at 202-408-2237 or 1-888-656-2383.