“Open Enrollment” is the annual period when individuals and families can enroll in health insurance plans. Open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act, also known as “Obamacare”, is currently underway. Although the deadline for enrolling in coverage effective January 1st has passed, interested individuals have until January 31, 2017 to enroll in or make changes to 2017 plans. After this date, you can enroll or change plans only if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.


After enrolling in a health plan through NY State of Health, there may be questions about using the health plan coverage. Some resources are available here: http://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/UsingYourInsurance

For information in languages other than English, visit here: http://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/AdditionalLanguageMaterials

Enrollment in the Essential Plan, Medicaid and Child Health Plus is available all year long. Learn more here: https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov/individual?lang=en#
• **Families as Partners** - Families of children with special healthcare needs will partner in the decision-making at all levels and will be satisfied with the services that they receive.

The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) and the U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative have developed a web-based tool that helps individuals create family health history documents. Using any computer with internet connection and an up-to-date Web browser, users can develop a drawing of their family tree and a chart outlining their family health history. Both the drawing and the chart can be printed and shared with family members and medical professionals. Holiday gatherings are a time to consider beginning this family health history. [https://www.genome.gov/17516481/](https://www.genome.gov/17516481/)

• **Adequate Insurance and Financing** - Families of children with special healthcare needs will have adequate and/or public insurance to pay for the services that they need.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can be a financial support for children under age 18 with a qualifying disability. Eligibility is based on the child’s disability and the income and resources of both the child and any family members living in the child’s household. [https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/apply-child.html](https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/apply-child.html)


• **Medical Home** - Children with special healthcare needs will receive coordinated, ongoing, comprehensive care within a medical home

The National Center for Medical Home Implementation, in collaboration with the National Academy for State Health Policy, has created a fact sheet which outlines both challenges and opportunities with the care of CYSHCN (children and youth with special health care needs) enrolled in Medicaid managed care. This document identifies states that have leveraged Medicaid managed care to advance the pediatric medical home model through payment incentives, technical assistance, and care coordination services. [https://medicalhomeinfo.aap.org/national-state-initiatives/Pages/MedicaidManagedCare.aspx](https://medicalhomeinfo.aap.org/national-state-initiatives/Pages/MedicaidManagedCare.aspx)

• **Early, Continuous Screening** - Children will be screened early and continuously for special health care needs

State Medicaid agencies are working to provide comprehensive health care services for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), currently the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States for individuals under age 21. This brief provides clarification on services provided to Medicaid-
eligible children with ASD and, specifically, the adherence to the EPSDT (early and periodic screening, diagnostic, treatment) component of Medicaid.


- **Community Based Services** - Service systems must be organized so families can use them easily and are satisfied

“There’s a Shortage of Child Psychiatrists, and Kids are Hurting” is an article from The Washington Post outlining the effects of this provider shortage on the behavioral health of the youngest patients. 

- **Transition to Adulthood** - Youth with special health care needs will receive the services necessary to make transitions in all aspects of adult life, including adult healthcare, work, and independence

Improving health care transition for adolescents and young adults with diabetes is a challenge shared by both pediatric and adult practitioners. This article provides an overview of health care transitions, reviews selected approaches to transition, and provides recommendations for health care providers to facilitate and optimize transition in adolescents with diabetes.

http://clinical.diabetesjournals.org/content/28/3/99

**Other Links:**

The holiday season can be stressful for families and their loved ones with disabilities, especially for those with behavioral health concerns. While the following article focuses on children with autism, it be can adapted for other neurobehavioral disorders.


The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) seeks to learn about the experience of health insurance coverage for mental health and/or substance use care for yourself or a family member through the following survey. Your responses will help NAMI advocate for better access to services given the sweeping changes now taking place in our nation’s health care system.

For the survey in English https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/coverage4care2016
For the survey in Spanish https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/C4CSpanish2016

Research and personal experience tell us about the importance of friendships for adolescents. Still, many adolescent boys struggle to make and keep close friends. A new video called “The Crisis of Connection for Adolescent Boys” underscores that adolescent boys want and need close, supportive
friendships and provides guidance to professionals and family members on how to foster those relationships.

- Have you found valuable links and you would like to share? Please sent them to Lin Perry at lperry@ptopnys.org

- If you would like to speak with someone regarding your child with special health care needs, we would be happy to hear from you:
  - Lin Perry at (607) 240-4573

✓ Visit our website at www.ptopnys.org

✓ www.facebook.com/ParenttoParentNYS

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