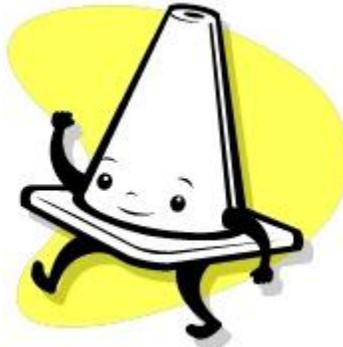


Issue 71: INSIDER'S EDGE: Upgrades Underway!

Welcome back, Insiders! I hope you enjoyed the long holiday weekend. The big news for this week—MarylandHealthConnection.gov is under construction and major upgrades are on the way!



As part of the upgrade process, the external portal the public uses to access MarylandHealthConnection.gov is being closed on Friday, July 18. Even though the external portal will remain closed until the next open enrollment begins on November 15, 2014, consumers can still apply for benefits now!

For Consumers Interested in Applying for Medicaid

Consumers who think they may qualify for Medicaid or the Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program can still apply for benefits. Enrollment in Medicaid and MCHP is year round.

Consumers interested in applying for these programs can apply at any time online at <https://www.marylandsail.org> or by visiting a [local connector entity](#), [health department](#) or [department of social services](#). Consumers can also apply by calling the Consumer Support Center at [1-855-642-8572](tel:1-855-642-8572) (TTY [1-855-642-8573](tel:1-855-642-8573)).

For Consumers Interested in Buying Health Insurance or Those Who Need to Finish Applying

Don't forget, consumers may be able to enroll in a qualified health plan before November 15, 2014 if they experience a life event (special circumstance) like getting married, having a baby or losing other health coverage, which qualifies them for a **special enrollment period**.

If a consumer thinks they qualify to buy coverage now or need help completing an existing application, they should call the Consumer Support Center at [1-855-642-8572](tel:1-855-642-8572) (TTY [1-855-642-8573](tel:1-855-642-8573)) or visit a navigator or insurance broker. Information on finding a navigator or insurance broker can be found online at <http://marylandhealthconnection.gov/health-insurance-in-maryland/help-with-health-insurance/health-insurance-support/>.

Want to read up on what types of life events qualify individuals for a special enrollment period? Check out these past issues of the *Insider's Edge*:

- *Issue 45: Open Enrollment and Special Enrollment Periods*
- *Issue 59: INSIDER'S EDGE: Open Enrollment Has Closed—What's Next?*
- *Issue 60: INSIDER'S EDGE: Special Enrollment Periods and Other Life Changes*

One Last Thing!

Caseworkers should continue to accept any application a consumer submits (including the [Maryland Health Connection application](#)) when applying for Medical Assistance. The only application that can no longer be accepted is the Primary Adult Care (PAC) application.

That's it for now, Insiders! See you next time!