



FIDA UPDATE

Implementation Delayed for Six Months

On January 10, 2014, the Department of Health ([DOH](#)) announced that the Fully Integrated Duals Advantage (FIDA) program demonstration period for certain dually eligible individuals (Medicaid and Medicare) would be delayed by six months, from July 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015. Marketing of the new FIDA plans and voluntary enrollment will begin in October 2014.

Individuals who are eligible to participate in the FIDA program include people who are age 21 and older who are entitled to benefits under Medicare Part A, are enrolled under Medicare Parts B and D and are receiving full Medicaid benefits, and reside in a FIDA demonstration county (Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester). In order to be FIDA eligible, individuals must also meet one of the following three criteria: (1) eligible for a nursing facility and receive facility-based long term support services (LTSS); (2) eligible for the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver (NHTD); or (3) require community-based LTSS for more than 120 days.

Unlike managed long term care (MLTC) programs, enrollment in a FIDA plan is not “mandatory”. MLTC members may choose to stay in an MLTC plan and use their Medicare or Medicare Advantage cards for their primary medical care. However, FIDA will use a “passive enrollment” with the right to “opt-out”.

The FIDA plan enrollment process is as follows:

- **October 1, 2014** – Eligible individuals will receive notice that they may voluntarily enroll in a FIDA plan. If they do not affirmatively opt out prior to January 1, 2015, then they will be passively enrolled into a FIDA plan effective January 1, 2015.
- **January 1, 2015** – Enrollment in FIDA plans will become effective for individuals who voluntarily enrolled since October 1, 2014. Those eligible individuals who did not voluntarily enroll will receive notice that they may either affirmatively enroll in a FIDA plan within the next 60 days or affirmatively opt out. If they do not enroll or opt out, then they will be

passively enrolled into a FIDA plan that is linked to their MLTC plan (or for nursing home residents, they will be assigned to a plan that contracts with their nursing home).

Maximus will handle the enrollment process and provide enrollment counseling and assistance. FIDA plans will have no role in the enrollment process or eligibility determinations.

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