

Independence care system

January 8, 2019

Dear Colleague,

As you probably know, over the past year ICS has been in discussions with the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) about the future of our Managed Long-Term Care (MLTC) plan. We have made the difficult decision to close the plan as of March 31 of this year. ICS members will receive an informal notice this week, and will be officially notified of the planned closure by February 1. In addition, we are facilitating communication of this news by letting staff, members, providers and other partners know in the coming days.

In collaboration with NYS DOH, we have developed a plan to transition our members to another MLTC, VNSNY CHOICE.

ICS, NYS DOH, and VNSNY CHOICE want this transition to be as easy for members as possible and we are collectively working to ensure that all members continue to receive the level of services they need after the transition date, which is April 1.

Since you have a relationship with our members and the community of people with disabilities, we would appreciate your support in helping to spread the word about the following important considerations to ensure that members transitioning out of the ICS MLTC can maximize the consumer protections available to them.

- ICS Members should stay with ICS until the expected April 1, 2019 transition date.

- Members who are enrolled with ICS and who transition to VNSNY CHOICE will be guaranteed a minimum of one year of the same level of care they have now. (Members who select another plan will be guaranteed continuity of care for 120 days.)
- Members who want to enroll in VNSNY CHOICE do not need to do anything – they can stay with ICS and will be automatically enrolled in VNSNY CHOICE as of April 1.

ICS Will Go Back to Our Roots: Serving People with Disabilities

Building on our 18 years of experience working with people with physical disabilities, we are pleased to announce that ICS will continue to serve this community. NYS DOH has designated ICS to begin a new care management organization called a Health Home, with a continued focus on serving people with physical disabilities to help them live independently, in their communities. The ICS Health Home will help its members to coordinate their health care and gain access to community resources they need to be as healthy and independent as possible.

The ICS Health Home will launch on April 1, 2019. [Here is a brochure about the program.](#) In the coming months, we will be talking to ICS members about the benefits of enrolling in the ICS Health Home and we would appreciate your support.

In addition, ICS will contract with VNSNY CHOICE to provide care management services for our qualifying members with physical disabilities. Qualified members enrolled in VNSNY CHOICE will be automatically assigned to ICS care management; there is no need for members to take any action to receive these services.

We have also worked with NYS DOH on a plan related to ICS provider liabilities and we will be communicating about this with providers.

Please feel free to reach out to us if you would like more information.

Sincerely,

Rick Surpin

President – Independence Care System