

New ICRC Resource: Tips for States on Working with Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans to Improve Coordination of Physical and Behavioral Health Services for Dually Eligible Individuals

Dually eligible individuals with both physical and behavioral health conditions must not only navigate separate physical and behavioral health delivery systems, but they must also navigate the separate Medicare and Medicaid administrative and payment systems and their varying coverage of health services. These bifurcated systems often produce uncoordinated care that can leave dually eligible individuals facing service gaps, duplication of care and services, and/or potentially dangerous prescription drug interactions.

States can work collaboratively with Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) – specialized Medicare Advantage plans designed specifically for dually eligible individuals – to improve coordination of Medicare and Medicaid physical and behavioral health services for D-SNP enrollees.

The Integrated Care Resource Center (ICRC) has developed a new resource [Tips for States on Working with Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans to Improve Coordination of Physical and Behavioral Health Services for Dually Eligible Individuals](#) that details strategies states can use in their State Medicaid Agency Contracts (SMACs) with Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) to promote integration and coordination of behavioral health benefits among enrolled dually eligible individuals. This tip sheet also highlights how a few D-SNPs have gone beyond the SMAC requirements to further promote behavioral health integration.

Related Resources

- ICRC hosted a Working with Medicare Webinar: [Coordination of Medicare and Medicaid Behavioral Health Benefits](#) that provides an overview of Medicare and Medicaid behavioral health benefits (including mental health and substance use disorder benefits) for dually eligible individuals. This webinar also includes a summary of recent expansion of Medicare coverage of behavioral health services and providers, as well as opportunities and strategies for states to improve coordination of behavioral health benefits in their D-SNPs.

ABOUT THE INTEGRATED CARE RESOURCE CENTER

The Integrated Care Resource Center is a national initiative of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to help states improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of care for individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. The state technical assistance activities are coordinated by Mathematica Policy Research and the Center for Health Care Strategies. For more information, visit www.integratedcareresourcecenter.com.

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