



MORE INFO:

http://www.hrtw.org/healthcare/hlth_ins.htm

Here is what we know:

- **NO HEALTH INSURANCE** - Two out of five college graduates and one-half of high school graduates who do not go on to college will experience a time without health insurance in the first year after graduation. (*Commonwealth Fund 2007*)
- **DROPPED FROM HEALTH INSURANCE** - Young adults are often dropped from their parents policies or public insurance programs at age 19, or when they graduate from college and struggle to find jobs with health benefits. Young adults are far more likely to be uninsured than older adults: four of 10 young adults between the ages of 19 and 29 can expect to be uninsured at sometime during the year --twice the rate of adults ages 30 to 64. (*Commonwealth Fund 2007*)
- **BARRIERS TO GETTING AND KEEPING HEALTH INSURANCE** - "Americans with disabilities face a number of distinct barriers in obtaining, maintaining, and using health insurance and in accessing and using health care services. At the same time, Americans with disabilities also confront the barriers, problems, and frustrations with which most Americans routinely struggle in the insurance and health care systems." (*National Council on Disability 2002 annual National Disability Policy: A Progress Report*)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE: Changes after reaching majority age

In most states if you receive SSI benefits you automatically qualify for Medicaid coverage exception those 11 states called 209B, which require a separate application to Medicaid: 11 States have elected to have at least one more stringent requirement than the SSI rules for Medicaid eligibility: CT, HI, IN, IL, MN, MO, ND, NH, OK, OH, and VA.

MAINTAIN MEDICAID

- Passed SSI Redetermination - continue benefits
- Emancipated Minor - by marriage or court decision may qualify or continue Medicaid due to income or disability status.

DROP FROM MEDICAID

- Former childhood SSI recipient at age 18 did not qualify under SSI redetermination and loses benefits (income too high or does not meet disability criteria.)

"STUDENT CHILD" up to age 22

Effective April 1, 2005 Section 432 of the Social Security Protection Act extended the student earned income exclusion (SEIE) to any individual under the age of 22 regularly attending school, college, or training designed to prepare him/her for a paying job, this includes students who have IEPs.

<https://s044a90.ssa.gov/apps10/poms.nsf/lx/0500501020>

NEW to MEDICAID

- Child did not qualify for SSI under 18 due to family income.
- At age 18 may qualify for SSI and Medicaid as an adult single head of household.

RESOURCE: Disability Evaluation Under Social Security

<http://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/>

Medicaid Waivers-

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidStWaivProgDemoPGI/08_WavMap.asp

PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE: Continued Medicaid Eligibility

TICKET TO WORK - MEDICAID BUY-IN WHILE WORKING: Section 1619(b)

<http://www.yourtickettowork.com/>

- Still meets SSI criteria
- Needs Medicaid in order to work
- Gross earned income is insufficient to pay for other supports
- Worker could opt to buy-in and receive Medicaid benefits

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE: Continued Benefits via Family Plan

ADULT DISABLED DEPENDENT CHILD (not a mandate in Pennsylvania)

- Check plan before student turns 18
- Youth over 18 may continue on family plan if dependent for life.
- Must be on the family plan prior to turning 18.
- No substantial gainful employment
- Annual re-certification - disability & dependent

40 states have this provision mandated in state health insurance statute:

AZ, AR, CA, CT, FT, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OR, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, VT, WA, WI and WY

STUDENT STATUS (available in some health plans)

- Check plan before student turns 18
- Proof of college class load each semester (often requires full-time status)
- Ages 18-22, sometimes older
- Annual re-certification
- *Downside:* If student has to drop out one semester due to illness, he/she will be dropped from coverage

COURT ORDERED HEALTH CARE BENEFITS - If a "adult disabled dependent child" is enrolled in health insurance under a parent's family health care insurance plan as part of a court-ordered child support decree, it is important that a time frame is specified (until age 18, or life long?) This may require consulting a lawyer who specializes in "family law", to avoid having to go back to court again.

ERISA PLANS FOLLOW DIFFERENT RULES – ERISA plans do not have to follow the state insurance laws, There is however a provision under the 'Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2004 (WFTRA /HR1208) which a dependent can be a "qualifying child" or "qualifying relative" (with no gross income test applicable to Sections 105 and 125 of the Code). If previously a dependent qualified as a qualifying child but no longer does due to the new age and full time student restrictions, one may still qualify.

NEW TREND EMERGING - RAISING THE AGE OF DEPENDENCY FOR ALL YOUNG ADULTS

NJ in May 2006 created a new law, unmarried adults younger than age 30 who do not have dependents and live in New Jersey can receive health insurance through their parents, regardless of whether they are students or reside with their parents. The law does not apply to parents who receive health insurance through the federal government or large companies with self-insurance.

18 states have passed legislation to raise the age of dependency for most young adults for purposes of eligibility under private insurance plans.

Up to age 24--DE, IN, SD*

Up to age 25--CO, ID, ME, MD, MT, NM, RI, TX, VA, WA, WV

Up to age 26--CT, MA, NH, UT

Up to age 30--NJ, SD*employer option

PA - Students in National Guard called to duty, maintain coverage until education is completed regardless of age

10 states have introduced a bill to increase age of dependency but has not passed yet. AK, CA, FL, MN, MO, NV, NY, PA, OH, TN

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE: Young Adult Pays Premium

OPTIONS to buy private insurance health care benefits:

- College - student plan
- Employed - group plan
- Self-pay: single plan
- COBRA

Concern: What happens if health status changes and affects continuous employment or attending school?
There is no safety-net or easy on/off for health care benefits.

Tip Sheet Developed by: Patti Hackett & Glen Gallivan, Ocala, FL, 2003, revised 2007



The HRTW National Center www.hrtw.org enjoys a working partnership with the Shriners Hospitals for Children and KASA. The National Center is funded through a cooperative agreement (U39MC06899-01-00) from the Integrated Services Branch, Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs (DSCSHN) in the Federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). HRSA/MCHB Project Officer: Elizabeth McGuire *The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy or position nor imply official endorsement of the funding agency or working partnerships.*