



## **Your rights and responsibilities as a STAR, STAR+PLUS or STAR Kids member**

### **Your rights**

1. You have the right to respect, dignity, privacy, confidentiality, and nondiscrimination. That includes the right to:
  - a. Be treated fairly and with respect.
  - b. Know that your medical records and discussions with your providers will be kept private and confidential.
2. You have the right to a reasonable opportunity to choose a health care plan and primary care provider. This is the doctor or health care provider you will see most of the time and who will coordinate your care. You have the right to change to another plan or provider in a reasonably easy manner. That includes the right to:
  - a. Be told how to choose and change your health plan and your primary care provider.
  - b. Choose any health plan you want that is available in your area and choose your primary care provider from that plan.
  - c. Change your primary care provider.
  - d. Change your health plan without penalty.
  - e. Be told how to change your health plan or your primary care provider.
3. You have the right to ask questions and get answers about anything you do not understand. That includes the right to:
  - a. Have your provider explain your health care needs to you and talk to you about the different ways your health care problems can be treated.
  - b. Be told why care or services were denied and not given.
  - c. Be given information about your health plan, services, and providers.
  - d. Be told about your rights and responsibilities.
4. You have the right to agree to or refuse treatment and actively participate in treatment decisions. That includes the right to:
  - a. Work as part of a team with your provider in deciding what health care is best for you.
  - b. Say yes or no to the care recommended by your provider.
5. You have the right to use each complaint and appeal process available through the managed care organization and through Medicaid and get a timely response to complaints, appeals, external medical reviews, and state fair hearings. That includes the right to:
  - a. Make a complaint to your health plan or to the state Medicaid program about your health care, your provider, or your health plan.
  - b. Get a timely answer to your complaint.
  - c. Use the plan's appeal process and be told how to use it.
  - d. Ask for an external medical review and state fair hearing from the state Medicaid program and get information about how that process works.
  - e. Ask for a state fair hearing without an external medical review from the state

- Medicaid program and receive information about how that process works.
6. You have the right to timely access to care that does not have any communication or physical access barriers. That includes the right to:
    - a. Have telephone access to a medical professional 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to get any emergency or urgent care you need.
    - b. Get medical care in a timely manner.
    - c. Be able to get in and out of a health care provider's office. This includes barrier-free access for people with disabilities or other conditions that limit mobility, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
    - d. Have interpreters, if needed, during appointments with your providers and when talking to your health plan. Interpreters include people who can speak in your native language, help someone with a disability, or help you understand the information.
    - e. Be given information you can understand about your health plan rules, including the health care services you can get and how to get them.
  7. You have the right to not be restrained or secluded when it is for someone else's convenience or is meant to force you to do something you do not want to do, or is to punish you.
  8. You have a right to know that doctors, hospitals, and others who care for you can advise you about your health status, medical care, and treatment. Your health plan cannot prevent them from giving you this information, even if the care or treatment is not a covered service.
  9. You have a right to know that you are not responsible for paying for covered services. Doctors, hospitals, and others cannot require you to pay copayments or any other amounts for covered services.
  10. You have a right to make recommendations to your health plan's member rights and responsibilities.

### **Your responsibilities**

1. You must learn and understand each right you have under the Medicaid program. That includes the responsibility to:
  - a. Learn and understand your rights under the Medicaid program.
  - b. Ask questions if you do not understand your rights.
  - c. Learn what choices of health plans are available in your area.
2. You must abide by the health plan's and Medicaid's policies and procedures. That includes the responsibility to:
  - a. Learn and follow your health plan's rules and Medicaid rules.
  - b. Choose your health plan and a primary care provider quickly.
  - c. Make any changes in your health plan and primary care provider in the ways established by Medicaid and by the health plan.
  - d. Keep your scheduled appointments.
  - e. Cancel appointments in advance when you cannot keep them.
  - f. Always contact your primary care provider first for your nonemergency medical needs.
  - g. Understand when you should and should not go to the emergency room.
3. You must share information about your health with your primary care provider and

learn about service and treatment options. That includes the responsibility to:

- a. Tell your primary care provider about your health.
  - b. Talk to your providers about your health care needs and ask questions about the different ways your health care problems can be treated.
  - c. Help your providers get your medical records.
4. You must be involved in decisions relating to service and treatment options, make personal choices, and take action to keep yourself healthy. That includes the responsibility to:
- a. Work as a team with your provider in deciding what health care is best for you.
  - b. Understand how the things you do can affect your health.
  - c. Do the best you can to stay healthy.
  - d. Treat providers and staff with respect.
  - e. Talk to your provider about all of your medications.

Additional member responsibilities while using Nonemergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) services:

1. When requesting NEMT services, you must provide the information requested by the person arranging or verifying your transportation.
2. You must follow all rules and regulations affecting your NEMT services.
3. You must return unused advanced funds. You must provide proof that you kept your medical appointment prior to receiving future advanced funds.
4. You must not verbally, sexually, or physically abuse or harass anyone while requesting or receiving NEMT services.
5. You must not lose bus tickets or tokens and must return any bus tickets or tokens that you do not use. You must use the bus tickets or tokens only to go to your medical appointment.
6. You must only use NEMT services to travel to and from your medical appointments.
7. If you have arranged for an NEMT service but something changes, and you no longer need the service, you must contact the person who helped you arrange your transportation as soon as possible.

If you think you have been treated unfairly or discriminated against, call the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) toll free at 800-368-1019. You also can view information concerning the HHS Office of Civil Rights online at [hhs.gov/ocr](https://hhs.gov/ocr).