

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Children's Medical Services



What is the purpose of the program?

To ensure that there is a community-based, coordinated, family-focused, culturally appropriate, comprehensive system of quality specialty health care services available for Georgia's children with chronic medical conditions from birth to 21 years of age.

What does the program do?

Children's Medical Services (CMS) provides care coordination and other needed medical/health services for eligible children and their families. CMS may provide, arrange for and/or pay for comprehensive physical evaluations, diagnostic tests, inpatient/outpatient hospitalization, medications and other medical treatments, therapy, durable medical equipment, hearing aids related to the child's CMS-eligible condition, and genetic counseling. CMS works closely with primary care providers to coordinate services.

How many people are helped by the program?

Approximately 8700 Georgia children (birth to 21 years) received specialized medical/health care and care coordination services through this program during FY 2007.

Why is the program important?

Children with special health care needs (i.e. chronic medical conditions) require multiple services from a number of health providers. CMS provides access to specialty health care for children through a long-standing successful public/private partnership including over 400 providers. The program enables children to receive quality medical services and may assist with payment for services. These services prevent complications due to their condition(s) and promote healthy growth and development.

Who is eligible?

Children from birth to 21 years of age that meet both a medical and financial criteria are eligible for services. The range of medically eligible conditions include burns; cardiac conditions; chronic lung disease (including cystic fibrosis); craniofacial anomalies (including cleft lip/palate); diabetes mellitus; gastrointestinal disorders; hearing disorders; spina bifida; neurological and neurosurgical conditions, including epilepsy and hydrocephalus; orthopedic and/or neuromuscular disorders (such as scoliosis); congenital or traumatic amputations of limbs; cerebral palsy; vision disorders (including cataracts, glaucoma, amblyopia, and strabismus); and genetic disorders (including Down syndrome, metabolic disorders, sickle cell disease, and chromosomal disorders) and other chronic conditions. One of the four following supports financial eligibility criteria: (1) family income 236% of the federal poverty level and under, (2) Medicaid-enrolled (including Deeming Waiver), (3) receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or (4) are in foster care.

Where are services located?

Statewide.

Outcome measures

Increase the percentage of children enrolled in CMS that receive community based, family focused, coordinated, culturally appropriate, comprehensive care coordination.

Legislative authority:

Title V of the Social Security Act

State Office: (404) 657-2726; Toll Free: 1 (888) 651-8224
For Local Directory call Parent to Parent: 1 (800) 229-2038
<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/cms/>

Georgia Department of Human Resources
Division of Public Health
Office of Birth Outcomes

