

A new day for health care in Maryland: *Giving hospitals a stake in helping people stay healthy*

Have you ever felt overwhelmed or lost within our health care system? You are not alone. We all want a system that gives us what we need, when we need it – no more and no less.

Maryland is taking the steps to find a better way. Our first step in creating a more coordinated health care system starts with your local hospital.

Recently, the state created a new system to motivate your local hospital to work more closely with all the other care providers in your community. The goal is to make the whole system work better for you and your family.

In its role in protecting the public's interest, the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (an independent state agency) is helping providers adjust to this new model and is working with hospitals to ensure high quality care.

Maryland's new health care system puts you in charge of your care.

These changes will make it easier to stay in charge of your care – and your life. We want you to know you can count on the care system to provide what you need, when you need it and to keep your information private.

But getting there takes active citizens who care about the health of their communities. We need to get together and learn what each community needs. When you speak up about your needs and others join in, the services that are most needed will be visible and the community and its hospital can act on that.

We need to take advantage of this rare chance to change our health care system into a source of pride and strength for our communities and better health for you and the people you love.



How are hospitals changing to help you stay healthy?

- Making sure you have prescriptions filled and in-hand before you leave
- Helping you schedule follow-up appointments with your doctor
- Identifying a person you can call directly with any questions or concerns
- Establishing partnerships with your primary care physician and other people you choose to be engaged in your care, including collaborations with places of worship and schools



Want more information?
Contact the Health Care for All! Coalition at (410)235-9000 or www.healthcareforall.com to learn more about your local hospital and how to get more involved in making Maryland's health care system work for you.