

## How to choose a health plan

### Decide if you want to keep seeing your same doctor

If you or your kids have a regular doctor, you want to keep seeing when you join a plan, find out which plans he or she accepts.

If your doctor accepts more than one plan, find out which one is best for you. Ask about the clinics, hospitals and pharmacies the plan will let you use.

**"Your Health Plan Handbook: How to Get the Healthcare Your Family Needs from a Managed Care Plan" lists things Medicaid beneficiaries should ask about. The same idea was communicated to recipients in workshops, as well.**  
**Provided by the Community Service Society of New York**



---

## Jackie asks her doctor which health plan she accepts

**Jackie:** I am going to join a health plan. Which one should I join if I want to keep seeing you?

**Dr. Rivera:** I'm glad you asked. We accept only one plan. To keep coming here when you join a plan, you must join the plan we use. But you should also know that there are other plans you can join.



Nosotros  
egen

Health

## If your doctor and your kids' doctor do not take the same plan

---

Once you are required to join a plan, everyone in your family (with the same case number) may have to join the same plan. It may also be easier for you if everyone in your family joins the same plan.



### What you should know...

- ▶ If you can't find a plan that both your doctor and your kids' doctor accepts, decide whether it is more important for you or for your kids to keep the same doctor.



## Sylvia thinks about her family's needs

- Sylvia:** My doctor only takes one plan. My son Theo's doctor doesn't take that plan.
- Marcus:** Well you are pretty healthy. Theo always has to see Dr. Hakeem for his asthma.
- Sylvia:** So, if we want to be in the same plan, it's much more important that we sign up with a plan Dr. Hakeem takes. I can always find another doctor.

### Think about:

Am I healthy?

Do I have chronic conditions that need care?

Are my kids healthy?

Do my kids have chronic conditions that need care?

## Questions to ask plans

---

Before you join a health plan, there are some questions you should ask. If you talk to someone from the plan, write down the name of the person you speak to.

- Are there primary care providers near my house who don't have a waiting list?
- Which hospitals can I use if I join the plan?
- Where is the nearest pharmacy that takes the plan?
- How long do I have to wait to get an appointment?
- If I get care for a special condition, can I get the same treatment or services that I have now? Will my treatment stop for any period of time if I join the plan?
- If I use special supplies, can I get them with the plan?
- Can I still go to the same drug or alcohol treatment program if I join the plan?
- Does the plan have a provider that I can use who speaks my language?