

Your Child's Health Care and the Affordable Care Act (ACA):

Concurrent Care for Children

Do you have a child with life-threatening health problems? Does your child have Medicaid? If you answered yes to both of these questions, you need to know:

Under the ACA, children with life-threatening health problems who are enrolled in Medicaid can get both curative treatment and hospice care. This is called concurrent care.

What is concurrent care for children?

When very sick children qualify for concurrent care, it means they can get 2 different kinds of care at the same time:

- **Curative treatment** focuses on curing a health condition. Examples of curative treatment can range from medicine to fight an infection to chemotherapy to fight cancer.
- **Hospice care** (end-of-life care) helps patients who aren't expected to live longer than 6 months stay as comfortable as possible. Hospice care can include many different kinds of services — for example, pain management and family counseling.

What changed under the ACA?

Before the ACA became law, children with life-threatening health problems couldn't get both curative treatment and hospice care at the same time. For a child to get hospice care, the child's family had to agree to stop all curative treatment first.

What is the Affordable Care Act (ACA)?

The ACA is the federal health care reform law signed into law in 2010. (Some people call the law Obamacare.) Most people know that the ACA is about health insurance, but the law also includes many ways to improve health care in the United States.



In many cases, this meant that families were forced to choose between treatments that might help their child's life-threatening condition and care that would help their child feel as comfortable and supported as possible at the end of her life. This was often a very painful and difficult choice for patients, families, and doctors.

Now, a new rule says that state Medicaid programs have to allow children who qualify for hospice care to get both curative treatment services and hospice care at the same time — if their family and doctors agree it's the right choice for them. This part of the ACA is called Concurrent Care for Children (or Section 2302).

Where can I get more information?

Talk with your child's doctors about whether concurrent care is the right choice for your child. To learn more about what your state offers, contact your Medicaid customer service department.

You can find more information about caring for children and youth with special health care needs at www.medicalhomeinfo.org

You can find more information about health insurance for children and youth with special health care needs at www.catalystctr.org



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