

August 23, 2011

RE: Member Benefit Change

Dear Care1st Member,

Due to Arizona's budget problems, some of the services that you may receive are being reduced beginning **October 1, 2011**. Limits are being placed on the number of inpatient hospital days and the hours of available respite care per year. We are awaiting final approval from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and if there are any changes, we will let you know.

Inpatient hospital day limit for persons age 21 or over:

There will be a 25-day inpatient hospital limit for adults aged 21 years or older within a 12 month period of time. The 12 months will run from October 1 through September 30 of the next year. AHCCCS will no longer pay for hospital stays past the 25th day.¹

However, this limit will NOT apply to:

- Children aged 20 and under,
- Days in certain governmentally operated burn units,
- Days that are part of a transplant stay, and
- Days in the hospital for behavioral health reasons.

It is important for you to keep track of the number of days that you are in the hospital. Hospitals can bill you for any days past the 25th day not in the list above.

Respite Care hour limit for both adults and children receiving ALTCS benefits or behavioral health services:

Respite care is offered as a temporary break for caregivers to take time for themselves. The number of respite hours available to adults and children receiving ALTCS benefits or behavioral health services is being reduced from 720 hours to 600 hours within a 12 month period of time. The 12 months will run from October 1 through September 30 of the next year.

For more information, visit the AHCCCS website at:

<http://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/news.aspx#Benefits>

If you have questions, please contact us at Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm at 602-778-1800 or toll-free at 1-866-560-4042. TTY users may call 1-800-367-8939.

Member Services
Care1st Health Plan Arizona, Inc.

¹ If you are a Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), we will continue to pay your Medicare deductibles and co-payments.