



News Release

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Primary Care Network Opens Enrollment

Applications Accepted November 28 – December 9

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Health insurance is an important way for Utahns to gain control of their health care. Insured Utahns benefit from regular doctor visits, screenings, access to prescriptions, routine dental services and emergency care. And those services are just a few examples of what the Utah Department of Health’s (UDOH) Primary Care Network (PCN) offers. Beginning Monday, November 28 through Friday, December 9, Utah adults may apply online, by mail or in person to receive primary health care.

“The long wait is over,” said Nathan Checketts, Bureau Director, Primary Care Network, UDOH. “It’s been more than a year since PCN last had an open enrollment and many people are anxious to get the health care they need. PCN is the answer for many Utahns to gain affordable primary care.”

Applicants must meet PCN income guidelines and the following qualifications:

- Age 19-64
- U.S. citizen or legal resident
- Have no access to health insurance
- Are not covered by any other health insurance
- Do not qualify for Medicaid
- Are not a full-time student

Many individuals are surprised to find out that they meet PCN’s income guidelines. Here are three examples of adults who may qualify:

- One adult who earns up to \$1,197 a month
- A household of two (may include parent and child) with a maximum income of \$1,604 a month
- A household of three with a maximum income of \$2,012 a month
- A household of four with a maximum income of \$2,419 a month
- A household of five with a maximum income of \$2,827 a month

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While many people will apply for the first time this enrollment period, others already on PCN have expressed thanks for the health benefits they have received. “Thank you for offering this program,” one PCN client writes. “I would not have any health care if it weren’t for PCN.” Another wrote, “I don’t know what I would be able to do without it.”

For only \$50 a year and low co-pay amounts, PCN covers a range of preventive health care services. Dental care includes basic dental cleanings, tooth extractions, cavity fillings, and dental exams. Screenings such as mammograms, Pap smears, and cholesterol tests are also covered. Emergency transportation, consultation with an emergency room doctor for serious medical emergencies, birth control methods, up to four prescriptions a month, and immunizations like this year’s flu shot are also services PCN offers.

While PCN focuses on preventive care, it also covers pre-existing conditions like diabetes. One woman, whose husband’s Veterans Affairs insurance did not extend to spouses, noted, “Without this insurance, I would not be able to control my diabetes.” The insulin, syringes, lancets, and test strips covered by PCN have proved invaluable for managing her diabetes. While some insurance companies require applicants with pre-existing conditions to wait several months before approval, PCN does not have a waiting period.

Health officials urge Utahns to take advantage of this opportunity to apply for PCN beginning at 8:00 a.m. on November 28 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on December 9. Call 1-888-222-2542 or visit www.health.utah.gov/pcn for details.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.