

CARY: Coming soon! SAS Health Care Center primary care patient enrollment

HCC to enroll additional primary care patients March 15-26

Employees and their dependents covered by a SAS health plan may apply online for primary care patient status at the SAS Health Care Center (HCC) from March 15 at noon to March 26 at 5 p.m.

The plan is to accept all applications during the open enrollment period and will **not** be considered a first-come, first-served situation. Employees will have plenty of time during the two-week application period to have any questions answered before making this important decision.

Who is eligible?

Full-time and part-time employees covered by a SAS health plan who were hired on or before Feb. 11, 2010 (as well as their covered family members) are eligible to apply during this two-week, open enrollment period.

Employees hired on or after Feb. 12, 2010 are **not** eligible to apply at this time, but will be eligible to apply for themselves and their covered dependents during the next open enrollment period.

Find out more about what it means to become an HCC primary care patient

The HCC will offer a lunchtime seminar in W0001 (HCC Healthy Living Room) Thursday, March 11 at noon.

At this seminar employees will have the opportunity to meet the HCC providers, hear more about HCC services and ask questions. A large crowd is anticipated and seating is limited so an employee must register for this event. Web conferencing will be offered in real-time and also archived so that interested employees may listen at their convenience.

Looking for more information about becoming a primary care patient?

The HCC Web site has valuable information based on questions previously raised by other employees. There will also be a lengthy Q&A session at the March 11 seminar. For more information regarding primary care patient enrollment, contact the [SAS HCC](#).

More Primary care enrollment information will also be posted on the SAS Family Site beginning March 15.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is Primary Care?

Your primary care provider should be your first contact with the health care system when you need health maintenance (physical exams, immunizations, health education, etc), diagnosis of acute illness symptoms (i.e., bronchitis, rashes, pain) and management of chronic illnesses or conditions (i.e., asthma, diabetes, hypertension).

By getting familiar with you when sick and well, a primary care provider will become familiar with all aspects of your health and can provide valuable assistance in your efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle and prevent disease and disability. When a condition or illness requires referral to a specialist or specialists, a primary care provider can coordinate your routine health care needs with the treatment or therapies prescribed by the specialist, keeping in mind your health care needs as a whole.

If I accept enrollment as a Health Care Center primary care patient, may I continue to see my current *community* primary care provider? If I accept enrollment for a child may he/she continue to see a pediatrician or other primary care provider?

No. The role of a primary care provider is to be your first stop for diagnosis and treatment, health advice and referral (if needed). Having more than one practice or provider trying to fulfill this role could jeopardize the continuity and comprehensiveness of your or your child's health care. For this reason enrolling as a Health Care Center primary care patient must mean you have made the decision to transfer all your *routine* health care to the HCC. This includes all physical exams, management of chronic conditions if handled by your previous primary care provider, and visits for acute illnesses.

How do I decide whether becoming a primary care patient is a good idea in my particular situation based on where I live, my age, or the age of my dependents?

If you do not live in the local area it may not be to your advantage to become a Health Care Center primary care patient as it would require more travel for you to be seen here when you are ill than by a provider near your home. Likewise, it may not be a good decision to change providers if you are nearing retirement age and have a current provider with whom you are already established. If you have college-aged children who do not go to school within easy driving distance of Cary, choosing the Health Care Center as their primary care provider may not be the best choice.

How are the SAS Health Plans connected to use of the Health Care Center?

Any employee and dependent covered by either SAS insurance plan are eligible (but not required) to use Health Care Center services. The health plan determines the definition of 'dependent' and at what age a child dependent is no longer eligible to be covered by the plan.

Is it true that all Health Care Center services are free of charge?

Yes! Use of the Health Care Center is a benefit of being covered by a SAS health plan. However we do have a no-show policy and we charge for uncanceled, missed appointments in order to assure that we have adequate appointments for you.