

# Our+Care OC

A newsletter created by HIV-positive individuals for people living with HIV



In this issue of the Our+Care newsletter, we are going to discuss changes to the Ryan White Case Management and Nutrition Services Programs.

## What is Ryan White Case Management?

Ryan White Case Management is case management services funded by the Ryan White Part A Program. Ryan White Part A-funded case managers include 17<sup>th</sup> Street Testing, Treatment and Care, AIDS Services Foundation, Delhi Center, REACH, Shanti Orange County, and APAIT Health Center (starting March 2016).

Ryan White case management services are available to any eligible individual living with HIV in Orange County who needs help with linkage to and engagement in HIV medical care.

## What are the changes to the Case Management?

Beginning in March 2016, the Ryan White case management system will include several “tiers” of case management designed to better link people to medical care, support retention in care, and ultimately lead to viral load suppression.

The new tiers include the following levels of case management:

- **Linkage to Care:** Responsible for helping newly diagnosed individuals or individuals who have not been in medical care get public and private medical care services.
- **Medical Retention Services:** Responsible for helping clients address HIV-related medical issues to stay in care.

- **Client Support Services:** Responsible for helping clients who are HIV medically stable to get support services like housing, food services, legal services, etc.
- **Self-Advocacy:** Staff provides information and referrals to clients who no longer require intensive case management services.
- **Benefits Counseling:** Staff provides specific assistance to apply for benefits (i.e., Social Security, State Disability, Medicare, etc.).

## Why are these changes important?

The goal of Ryan White case management is linkage and retention in care. Prior to 2016, individuals in case management stayed in case management for a long time. However, if someone is linked and engaged in HIV medical care, they do not need ongoing Ryan White medical retention services. This change will focus on moving clients off of Ryan White case management to allow case managers more time with individuals who are newly diagnosed, re-engaging back into care, or have significant barriers to care.

## How will these changes impact the service I receive?

Your case manager will work with you to reassess your situation and decide which level of case management is best for you. A client Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document is available at:

**English:**

<http://ochealthinfo.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=48208>

**Spanish:**

<http://ochealthinfo.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=48207>

### What are Ryan White Nutrition Services?

Ryan White nutrition services include food bank, home delivered meals, and nutritional supplements for eligible individuals living with HIV.

### What are the changes to the Ryan White Nutrition Services Program?

Beginning March 2016, eligible individuals can access nutrition services in two ways. If you and your clinician feel that you need professional nutrition services, they will refer you to a Registered Dietitian (RD). The RD will work with you to create a nutrition plan that will help keep you healthy. You can still access food bank and nutritional supplements by going to the provider agency. To receive home-delivered meals, you must be nurse case managed. The table below is an overview of nutrition services provided through a RD vs. Non RD.

### What will the Registered Dietitian do?

The RD will do an assessment of the client’s nutritional status and needs. The RD will also make referrals for food services as needed.

### Why is this change important?

RD’s are being funded to address nutritional issues, especially as persons living with HIV disease are living longer and dealing with several co-morbidities. RD’s are able to provide a specific plan to focus on the nutritional needs of the client rather than addressing food insecurity.

### How will these changes impact the service I receive?

If you are new to HIV care and/or needs professional nutrition services from an RD, your doctor can make a referral to the RD.

However, if you are in regular HIV care and do not need a nutritional plan to stay healthy; nothing changes for you and you may be able to receive nutrition services without an RD’s referral.

**For more information on Ryan White Services, please visit:**

<http://ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/hiv>

**Ryan White Nutrition Services Overview**

Service Qualifications	Through Registered Dietitian	Through Non-Registered Dietitian
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no disability requirement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have a disability</li> <li>For Home-Delivered Meals must be homebound and unable to prepare meals</li> </ul>
Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no proposed income restriction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be under 150% of Federal Poverty Level</li> </ul>
Case Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no case management requirement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Home-Delivered Meals an individual must be nurse case managed</li> </ul>
Registered Dietitian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have a registered dietitian evaluate needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A registered dietitian may recommend nutritional supplements, but it is not required</li> </ul>
Nutrition Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have a nutrition plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A nutrition plan is not required</li> </ul>
Frequency of Re-evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no specific frequency, re-evaluation would be based on nutrition plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Food Bank there is no re-evaluation required unless the individual has a temporary disability</li> <li>For Home-Delivered Meals and Nutritional Supplements, re-evaluations must be done quarterly</li> </ul>

ORANGE COUNTY HIV QUALITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Our+Care OC is a project of the Orange County HIV Quality Management Committee and HIV Consumer Advocacy Committee. The HIV Quality Management Committee works to increase the quality of Ryan White services. For more information about the committee, please call (714) 834-8063. If you have feedback or suggestions for future newsletters, please contact Mindy He at [MHe@ochca.com](mailto:MHe@ochca.com).

