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Cell and Gene Therapy (CGT) Access Model

As of January 1, 2026, Maryland Medicaid participants can now more easily access cell and gene therapies for sickle cell disease under Maryland's participation in the federal Cell and Gene Therapy (CGT) Access Model. The two medications available in this model are Casgevy and Lyfgenia. Participation in the CGT Access Model ensures better pricing in Maryland for high-cost medications, which helps to reduce costs and strengthen support services for patients and families who need access to these life-changing treatments.

The CGT Access Model, administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is a new federal initiative that tests whether CMS-led outcomes-based agreements (OBAs) increase Medicaid beneficiaries' ability to access innovative treatments, improve their health outcomes, and reduce healthcare costs and burden to state Medicaid programs.

Coverage of these therapies is limited to Medicaid participants, age 12 and older, with sickle cell disease who meet the Maryland Medicaid clinical criteria. Approximately 3,000 Maryland Medicaid participants have sickle cell disease, including approximately 250 MedStar Family Choice members, though some may not meet the clinical criteria to qualify for either of the cell and gene therapies. The therapies currently available through the CGT Access Model are through two authorized treatment centers within Maryland Medicaid's provider network, the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore City and Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Authorization is required from MedStar Family Choice for this therapy utilizing specific clinical criteria established by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and CMS.

For more information on sickle cell disease resources in Maryland, visit the Maryland Sickle Cell Disease Association.

Additional information, including a transmittal and clinical criteria, will be shared as soon as further guidance is received from MDH.