



# Schizophrenia

Magellan Complete Care's goal is that with education people will seek the treatment they need. We also will work so that no one will have to face labels and unhelpful attitudes. People with mental illness get better and can stay better.

## What is schizophrenia?

People who have schizophrenia may hear voices other people do not hear. They may believe other people are reading their minds, controlling their thoughts, or planning to harm them. This can scare people with the illness. It also can make them very quiet or very tense.

People with schizophrenia may not make sense when they talk. They may sit for hours without moving or talking. Sometimes people with schizophrenia seem fine until they talk about what they are really thinking.

Scientists are finding medicines that are more effective and using new tools to understand the causes. In the years to come, this work may help stop and better treat the illness.

## Causes

Experts think many things may cause schizophrenia.

Scientists have long known that schizophrenia runs in families. The illness occurs in one percent overall. It occurs in 10 percent of people who have a parent, brother, or sister. People who have aunts, uncles, grandparents, or cousins with the disease also develop schizophrenia more often.

Many factors may be involved, such as contact with viruses or starvation before birth, problems during birth, and other not yet known factors.

Scientists think that a problem with the chemical reactions of the brain plays a role in schizophrenia. Scientists are learning more about brain chemistry and its link to schizophrenia.

Scientists have learned a lot about . More research is needed to help explain how it starts.

## Signs and symptoms

People with schizophrenia often lose touch with reality. These symptoms can come and go. Sometimes they are bad and at other times hardly clear. It depends on whether the person is getting treatment. Symptoms include the following:

- A person sees, hears, smells, or feels things that no one else can.
- False beliefs that do not change.
- Thought that are odd or flawed ways of thinking.
- Tense or angry body movements.
- No movement and does not react to others.

Other symptoms are linked with trouble with emotions and behaviors. These symptoms are harder to see as part of the disorder. They can be mistaken for depression or other conditions. These symptoms include the following:

- A person's face does not move or they talk in a dull voice.
- Lack of joy in life.
- Can not begin and sustain planned activities.
- Speaking little, even when forced to share.

Other symptoms are hard to see. These symptoms may be hard to see as part of the disorder. Often, they are detected only when other tests are given. These symptoms include:

- Poor skill to understand information.
- Trouble with making decisions.
- Trouble focusing or paying attention.
- Problems with the use of information right after learning it.

*To get more information about Magellan Complete Care please call us toll-free at 800-327-8613 or 800-424-1694 (TTY only). Or you can call Florida Medicaid Choice Counselors at 877-711-3662 or 866-467-4970 (TTY only).*

*Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*