



MONTANA HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS NOTICE

March 10, 2023

All Providers

Provider Meetings for Medicaid Eligibility Redetermination and Unwinding PHE Flexibilities

On February 9, 2023, the State of Montana received notice from the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) would be extended for 90 days. Additionally, the Secretary noted that based on current trends regarding COVID-19, HHS is planning for this to be the final renewal and that the PHE will end on May 11, 2023.

Medicaid Eligibility Redetermination

Beginning April 1, DPHHS will begin evaluating Medicaid members' eligibility for continued Medicaid, a process called redetermination. This will be the first time in three years that most Medicaid members have gone through a redetermination, as coverage was continued without interruption during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also on April 1, the policy of 12-month continuous eligibility will end for most adults. This will mean that changes in an individual's circumstances, such as income or household size, may lead to the ending of their Medicaid coverage, whereas previously their coverage would have continued until the end of the 12-month period since their application or last redetermination.

We know that you are a trusted source of information for Medicaid members and appreciate your partnership in helping them know what they need to do to keep their coverage. Thank you for all you do for communities across Montana.

Medicaid Eligibility Redetermination Webinars

Please join us for a webinar to learn more about these changes and how you can help members stay covered.

We will cover the following topics and answer your questions.

- COVID-19 Pandemic and Medicaid Eligibility: Where We've Been and Current Status
- Restart of Medicaid Redeterminations
- End of Continuous Eligibility for Most Adults
- How Partners Can Help

Medicaid eligibility redetermination webinars will be held:

- March 10 at 2:00-3:00 pm
- March 14 at 10:30-11:30 am
- March 17 at 9:00-10:00 am
- March 17 at 1:30-2:30 pm

[Join any of the Medicaid eligibility redetermination webinars by using this link to the Zoom meetings.](#)

Information about these changes, including sample notices, is also available at [Changes are Coming to Montana Medicaid/Healthy Montana Kids.](#)

Materials for community partners to help get the word out are available for free from Cover Montana. [Download or request your free printed materials here.](#)

Unwinding Public Health Emergency Flexibilities

Throughout the duration of the PHE, many programmatic flexibilities were implemented at both the federal and state levels. This allowed the ability to waive or modify certain requirements in a range of areas. Of significance, many flexibilities and policies have already been made permanent. With input from stakeholders, DPHHS reviewed each flexibility and policy enabled by the PHE to best determine the range of flexibilities that should remain in place once the PHE ends. Please join the informational webinars to learn which flexibilities will remain in place after the PHE.

Health Resources Division Webinar

Please join the Health Resources Division for a webinar intended for primary care providers and providers who receive Passport to Health referrals for members. Physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, group clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), Indian Health Service (IHS) clinics, Tribal 638 clinics and urban IHS centers are encouraged to attend. We will cover the following topics and answer your questions.

- Passport to Health Program PHE Flexibilities
- General Review of the Passport to Health Program

The HRD webinar will be held:

- April 10 at 11:00 am-12:00 pm

[Join the HRD webinar by using this link to the Teams meeting.](#)

Behavioral Health Provider Webinar

Please join Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) Division for a webinar where we will discuss unwinding of the PHE flexibilities. This webinar is intended for behavioral health providers. We will cover the following topics and answer your questions.

- Unwinding PHE flexibilities
- Medicaid Eligibility Redetermination

The BHDD webinar will be held:

- April 6 at 12:00-1:00 pm

[Join the BHDD webinar by using this link to the Teams meeting.](#)

Home and Community Based Services Provider Webinar

Please join the Medicaid Health Services Branch (MHSB) for a webinar where we will discuss unwinding of the PHE flexibilities. This webinar is intended for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP) waiver, Senior and Long-Term Care (SLTC), and Adult Mental Health (SDMI) waiver providers. We will cover the following topics and answer your questions.

- Unwinding PHE flexibilities
- Medicaid Eligibility Redetermination

The MHSB webinar will be held:

- April 7 at 11:00 am-12:00 pm

[Join the MHSB webinar by using this link to the Teams meeting.](#)

Contact and Website Information

If you have questions, please contact Mary Eve Kulawik in the Director's Office, at (406) 444-2584 or email mkulawik@mt.gov.

For claims questions or additional information, contact Montana Provider Relations at (800) 624-3958 or (406) 442-1837 or email [Montana Provider Relations Helpdesk](#).

Visit the [Montana Healthcare Programs Provider Information website](#) to access your provider type page. Choose Resources by Provider Type in the left-hand menu.