Restarting Medical Assistance (MA) Renewals

Navigator/CAC Monthly Webinar

September 2, 2020
As standard operating policies and procedures for MA renewals are resumed we seek to:

• Ensure retention of those eligible

• Reduce worker and enrollee burden
Questions

When and how do we restart renewals?

How does the backlog of deferred renewals fit in and how should they be managed?
• Emergency Executive Orders 20-11 and 20-12

• Enhanced federal funding under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act

• Temporary policy modifications
  • Suspended renewals (other than MA auto renewals in METS)
  • Suspended adverse actions (i.e., closures due to changes, failure to verify or failure to cooperate)
  • Suspended data matching
  • Suspended closure for failure to pay premiums

• Laws of Minnesota 2020, 1st Special Session, Chapter 7, Section 1
• On March 23, DHS directed workers to not close MA cases for April renewal in MAXIS or METS.

• DHS issued updates and guidance for subsequent MA renewals.
  
  o METS cases: Renewal batches were run, enrollees that automatically renewed were sent notices. Those not automatically renewed (“Need to Renew”) were not sent a renewal form and were “artificially processed” to maintain coverage.
  
  o MAXIS cases: Enrollees were not sent renewal forms and MA annual renewal dates were advanced six months to maintain coverage.
Restarting MA Renewals Scenarios

• These scenarios are preliminary and dependent upon when the public health emergency ends.

• Further refinement will be required based on CMS guidance.
Scenario 1

The public health emergency declaration is not renewed and ends after October 22, 2020.

• The MA renewals scheduled for January 2021 would be initiated.

• Renewal forms would be mailed to enrollees to complete and return. Renewals must be processed by December 31, 2020.

• Auto close functionality would be re-activated and coverage would close if the enrollee did not return the completed renewal form by mid-December.
## Scenario 1: January 2021 MA Renewals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total METS Cases</th>
<th>Est. 40% METS Cases Auto Renew</th>
<th>Remaining METS Cases to Renew</th>
<th>MAXIS Cases to Renew</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46,062</td>
<td>18,425</td>
<td>27,637*</td>
<td>35,656**</td>
<td>63,293***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Remaining METS cases to renew that are mixed households (some family members on MA and some on MinnesotaCare) would be processed by DHS.

**MAXIS cases to renew includes those that have an original January 2021 renewal and cases that had a July 2020 renewal pushed forward to January 2021.

***Total does not include backlog of MAXIS renewals from April - June 2020 or METS cases that did not auto renew starting April 2020.
At this time we are preparing to conduct MinnesotaCare renewals for January 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total MinnesotaCare Cases</th>
<th>Est. 30% MinnesotaCare Cases Auto Renew</th>
<th>Remaining MinnesotaCare Cases to Renew</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70,265</td>
<td>21,080</td>
<td>49,185</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scenario 2

The public health emergency declaration is renewed on or before October 22, 2020, but is not subsequently renewed, and ends after January 20, 2021.

• The MA renewals scheduled for April 2021 would be initiated.

• Renewal forms would be mailed to enrollees in early to mid-February to complete and return. Renewals must be processed by March 31, 2021.

• Auto close functionality would be re-activated and coverage would close if the enrollee did not return the completed renewal form by mid-March.
### Scenario 2: April 2021 MA Renewals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total METS Cases</th>
<th>Est. 40% METS Cases Auto Renew</th>
<th>Remaining METS Cases to Renew</th>
<th>MAXIS Cases to Renew</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39,275</td>
<td>15,710</td>
<td>23,565</td>
<td>16,837*</td>
<td>40,402**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes MAXIS cases that had an original April 2020 renewal and cases that had an October 2020 renewal pushed forward to April 2021.

**Total does not include backlog of MAXIS renewals from May - September 2020 or METS cases that did not auto renew starting April 2020.
Challenges to Renewing MA Coverage

- Unknown when the public health emergency will end
- Unknown when CMS guidance will be provided or what flexibilities will be allowed
- Existing systems constraints and limited capacity for technical support
- Volume of MA renewals
- Staffing capacity
- Communication needs and engagement of enrollees and other stakeholders
- Other challenges?
Strategies to Renew MA Coverage

- Initiate planning efforts with counties and tribes
- Consider use of any CMS flexibilities
- Review existing regulations to see if standard policies can be modified
- Collaborate with MNIT to gauge system support
- Reach out to navigators and health plans for their ideas and support
- Develop state and local communication and engagement plans for enrollees and stakeholders
- Leverage SNAP data
- Consider staff sharing arrangements
- Other strategies?
Thank You!

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