

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

When and how do we restart renewals?

How does the backlog of deferred renewals fit in and how should they be managed?

Temporary COVID-19 Emergency Policies

- 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

MA Renewals Suspension

- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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: Public Health Emergency ends Oct. 23

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

Total METS Cases	Est. 40% METS Cases Auto Renew	Remaining METS Cases to Renew	MAXIS Cases to Renew	TOTAL
46,062	18,425	27,637*	35,656**	63,293***

*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.

MinnesotaCare Renewals

At this time we are preparing to conduct MinnesotaCare renewals for January 2021.

Total MinnesotaCare Cases	Est. 30% MinnesotaCare Cases Auto Renew	Remaining MinnesotaCare Cases to Renew
70,265	21,080	49,185

Scenario 2: Public Health Emergency ends Jan. 21, 2021

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

Total METS Cases	Est. 40% METS Cases Auto Renew	Remaining METS Cases to Renew	MAXIS Cases to Renew	TOTAL
39,275	15,710	23,565	16,837*	40,402**

*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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