

Minnesota Health Care Programs Eligibility Updates

Navigator/Certified Application Counselor Monthly Webinar

September 1, 2021

- DHS Announces a Change to Medical Assistance Eligibility for Citizens of the Freely Associated States
 - Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau
 - Prior to this federal law change, citizens of the Freely Associated States were considered lawfully present noncitizens, and were only eligible for MA if they were children under age 21 or pregnant women. Citizens of the Freely Associated States who were age 21 or older and not pregnant could only qualify for Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA) or for MinnesotaCare.
 - With this change, citizens of the Freely Associated States who meet all MA eligibility factors, including Minnesota residency, may qualify for MA.

DRAFT Renewals Restart Timeline

- We are planning for the resumption of normal eligibility operations and the accumulated backlog of work after the federally declared public health emergency (PHE) ends.
- Previously shared draft timeline that would restart Minnesota Health Care Programs eligibility renewals for MA and MinnesotaCare enrollees who had a **January 2022** renewal.
- Proposing to delay the restart of renewals to MA cases that have an **April 2022** renewal (i.e., after the PHE ends).
- MinnesotaCare renewals (and January MA renewals) – passively renewed, same process as 2021

DRAFT Updated timeline for restarting Minnesota Health Care Programs eligibility renewals

This updated high-level timeline assumes notification from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) by Nov. 1, 2021, that the federally declared public health emergency (PHE) will end after Dec. 31, 2021. Adjustments to the timeline will be made pending further guidance from CMS and if the emergency is extended.

| Activity and timing | AUG 2021 | SEP 2021 | OCT 2021 | NOV 2021 | DEC 2021 | JAN 2022 | FEB 2022 | MAR 2022 | APR 2022 | MAY 2022 | JUN 2022 | JUL 2022 | AUG 2022 |
|--|--|----------|----------|--|---|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| DHS and MNIT | Prep for restart and implementation | | | | | Provide support, oversight and troubleshoot issues | | | | | | | |
| Notices to enrollees | | | | Notice sent to all enrollees about the end of the Public Health Emergency, restart of renewals and return to standard policies and procedures | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Closing notice sent to those enrolled in MA for COVID-19 testing of uninsured | | | | | | | | |
| Renewals | | | | | | Renewals resume starting with MA cases that have an April 2022 renewal. Renewal caseload is spread over 12 months. Failure to return renewal or a redetermination of ineligibility will result in closure of coverage. | | | | | | | |
| Changes in circumstances | | | | | | Continuous coverage ends. All changes in circumstances acted upon. | | | | | | | |
| Worker communications | Continue messaging for eligibility workers | | | Renewal training for eligibility workers | | Ongoing support and updates for eligibility workers through live-stream events, regular meetings (County Roles & Responsibilities and Health Care Eligibility Partner Information Exchange), SIR announcements, etc. | | | | | | | |
| Partner and stakeholder communications | Continue messaging and seek input and feedback | | | Ongoing updates, information exchange and problem-solving with Pre-County Advisory Committee, counties, tribal nations, navigators, managed care organizations, Integrated Health Partnerships, stakeholders and advocates | | | | | | | | | |

DRAFT Renewals Restart Timeline

- New guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued on August 13, 2021.
- CMS extends the timeframe for states to complete pending eligibility and enrollment actions up to 12 months after the month in which the PHE ends. (Previously, 6 months)
- CMS eliminates option for states to avoid repeating recent eligibility determinations after the PHE ends. All enrollees must be redetermined after the PHE ends, before they are disenrolled.
- More detail to come. Our timeline could change depending on what we learn.

Thank You!

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