

Preparations for the Unwinding of Continuous Coverage for Medical Assistance

All HealthChoices Networks

Scope: This Provider Alert applies to all contracted providers.

Purpose: To inform providers about Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) guidance regarding the unwinding of continuous coverage for Medical Assistance.

On December 29, 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (CAA, 2023) was enacted. As a result, the **Continuous Coverage Requirement for Medical Assistance will terminate on April 1, 2023**. This removes the requirement that continuous coverage terminate only after the end of the month in which the public health emergency ends. DHS is preparing for the unwinding of continuous coverage for Medical Assistance, which has been in place since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under this emergency, individuals covered by Medicaid – also known as Medical Assistance – have been able to keep their health coverage even if they would have otherwise become ineligible for the program based on other factors.

DHS is contacting those currently enrolled in Medical Assistance with instructions on how to re-enroll or to share options for coverage if no longer eligible. Options for no or low-cost health coverage other than Medical Assistance include plans available through Pennie®, Pennsylvania's official health insurance marketplace, and the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP).

DHS **strongly encourages all Medical Assistance recipients to make sure their contact information is up to date so that they can receive timely** updates on benefits. **Medical Assistance recipients can update their information on COMPASS, the state's website to apply for and manage benefit information.** They can also download the myCOMPASS PA mobile app and sign up for email and text alerts through the app to receive timely information on benefits.

Members can be directed to following DHS sites for support:

- dhs.pa.gov/COMPASS - for immediate actions

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- dhs.pa.gov/PHE - for updates and detailed information
- pennie.com - for Pennsylvanians who no longer qualify for Medical Assistance
- dhs.pa.gov/CHIP or ChipCoversPAKids.com - for Pennsylvanians under 19

Members can scan the QR code below to download the free myCOMPASS PA app for Apple or Android devices:



Community Care encourages providers to direct members to respond to information they receive from Pennsylvania DHS regarding continuous coverage for Medical Assistance. Providers can also access and distribute these helpful DHS publications to assist clients here:

www.dhs.pa.gov/PHE/Pages/Stakeholder-Resources.aspx

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