



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (July 2022) (Implements RCW 34.05.320) Do NOT use for expedited rule making

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: June 08, 2023

TIME: 8:00 AM

WSR 23-13-005

Agency: Health Care Authority

☒ Original Notice

☐ Supplemental Notice to WSR _____

☐ Continuance of WSR _____

☒ Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 23-08-071 ; or

☐ Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or

☐ Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1); or

☐ Proposal is exempt under RCW _____.

Title of rule and other identifying information: (describe subject) 182-521-0200, Coverage after the public health emergency ends

Hearing location(s):

Date:	Time:	Location: (be specific)	Comment:
July 25, 2023	10:00 AM	The Health Care Authority holds public hearings virtually without a physical meeting place.	To attend the virtual public hearing, you must register in advance: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QiArFJaQrVcJ_rekiEBqoA If the link above opens with an error message, please try using a different browser. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the public hearing.

Date of intended adoption: Not sooner than July 26, 2023 (Note: This is **NOT** the effective date)

Submit written comments to:

Name: HCA Rules Coordinator

Address: PO Box 42716, Olympia WA 98504-2716

Email: arc@hca.wa.gov

Fax: 360-586-9727

Other:

By (date) July 25, 2023 by 11:59 PM

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact Johanna Larson

Phone: 360-725-1349

Fax: 360-586-9727

TTY: Telecommunication Relay Services (TRS): 711

Email: Johanna.larson@hca.wa.gov

Other:

By (date) July 14, 2023

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 amended section 6008 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to change the end date of Medicaid continuous coverage from the end date of the Public Health Emergency to March 31, 2023. The agency filed an emergency rule (WSR 23-08-051) effective April 1, 2023, so that WAC 182-521-0200 conforms to federal law. This proposed rule will make those changes permanent. The proposed rule also includes express language regarding permanent resource exclusion for pandemic-related disaster assistance.

Reasons supporting proposal: See Purpose

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160

Statute being implemented: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, 42 U.S.C. § 1396d note

Is rule necessary because of a:

Federal Law?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Federal Court Decision?

☐ Yes ☒ No

State Court Decision?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, CITATION: 42 U.S.C. § 1396d note (Section 5131 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), amending Section 6008 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act)

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters: None

Type of proponent: ☐ Private ☐ Public ☒ Governmental

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Health Care Authority

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Brian Jensen	PO Box 42716, Olympia, WA 98504-2716	360-725-0815
Implementation:	Mark Westenhaver	PO Box 42722, Olympia, WA 98504-2722	360-725-1324
Enforcement:	Mark Westenhaver	PO Box 42722, Olympia, WA 98504-2722	360-725-1324

Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under [RCW 28A.305.135](#)?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

TTY:

Email:

Other:

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under [RCW 34.05.328](#)?

☐ Yes: A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

TTY:

Email:

Other:

☒ No: Please explain: RCW 34.05.328 does not apply to Health Care Authority rules unless requested by the Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee or applied voluntarily.

Regulatory Fairness Act and Small Business Economic Impact Statement

Note: The [Governor's Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance \(ORIA\)](#) provides support in completing this part.

(1) Identification of exemptions:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see [chapter 19.85 RCW](#)). For additional information on exemptions, consult the [exemption guide published by ORIA](#). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under [RCW 19.85.061](#) because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.

Citation and description:

☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by [RCW 34.05.313](#) before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of [RCW 15.65.570](#)(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

- ☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under [RCW 19.85.025\(3\)](#). Check all that apply:
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b)
(Internal government operations) | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e)
(Dictated by statute) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c)
(Incorporation by reference) | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f)
(Set or adjust fees) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d)
(Correct or clarify language) | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g)
((i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit) |

☒ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under [RCW 19.85.025\(4\)](#) (does not affect small businesses).

☐ This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW _____.

Explanation of how the above exemption(s) applies to the proposed rule: The proposed rule pertains to client program eligibility and does not impose any costs on businesses.

(2) Scope of exemptions: *Check one.*

- ☒ The rule proposal is fully exempt (*skip section 3*). Exemptions identified above apply to all portions of the rule proposal.
- ☐ The rule proposal is partially exempt (*complete section 3*). The exemptions identified above apply to portions of the rule proposal, but less than the entire rule proposal. Provide details here (consider using [this template from ORIA](#)):
- ☐ The rule proposal is not exempt (*complete section 3*). No exemptions were identified above.

(3) Small business economic impact statement: *Complete this section if any portion is not exempt.*

If any portion of the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

- ☐ No Briefly summarize the agency's minor cost analysis and how the agency determined the proposed rule did not impose more-than-minor costs. _____
- ☐ Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert the required small business economic impact statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Fax:
TTY:
Email:
Other:

Date: June 8, 2023

Name: Wendy Barcus

Title: HCA Rules Coordinator

Signature:



WAC 182-521-0200 Coverage after the public health emergency (PHE) ends. (1) In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency (PHE) declared by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and in response to Section 6008 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127), the medicaid agency:

(a) Continues your Washington apple health coverage (~~until the end of the PHE~~) unless your eligibility determination was made incorrectly, or you:

(i) Are deceased;
(ii) Move out-of-state;
(iii) Request termination of your coverage; or
(iv) No longer meet citizenship or immigration requirements as described in WAC 182-503-0535.

(b) Waives and suspends the collection of premiums through the last day of the calendar quarter in which the PHE ends for:

(i) Apple health for kids with premiums (CHIP), as described in WAC 182-505-0215; and

(ii) Health care for workers with disabilities (HWD) program, as described in WAC 182-511-1250.

(c) As required by Social Security Administration guidance, excludes permanently from resources federal, state, and local pandemic-related disaster assistance that has been retained.

(d) Excludes, for the duration of the PHE and a period of 12 months after the PHE ends, any resources not permanently excluded under (c) of this subsection and which accumulated from participation that did not increase in response to Section 6008(b) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), as described in WAC 182-512-0550(24).

(2) Based on Section 5131 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), effective April 1, 2023, if you receive continued apple health due to the suspension of certain eligibility rules during the PHE, the agency will, after (~~the PHE ends~~) April 1, 2023:

(a) Redetermine(~~s~~) your eligibility for ongoing coverage using the process and timelines described in WAC 182-504-0035 and (~~notifies~~) notify you as required under chapter 182-518 WAC. You may update any information needed to complete a redetermination of eligibility, as described in WAC 182-504-0035.

(i) If you are no longer eligible for apple health, or you do not respond to our renewal request notice, you will receive at least 10 calendar days' advance notice before your coverage is terminated, as described in WAC 182-518-0025.

(ii) If your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI)-based coverage ends because you did not renew it, you have 90 calendar days from the termination date to complete your renewal. If you are still eligible for apple health, your benefits will be restored without a gap in coverage.

(iii) If your coverage is terminated, you have a right to an administrative hearing, as described in chapter 182-526 WAC.

(b) Begin(~~s~~) collecting premiums for CHIP and HWD clients prospectively, beginning with the month following the quarter in which

the PHE ends, based upon reported circumstances, and without collecting arrears.

(c) Resume(~~s~~) eligibility verification based on the factors described in WAC 182-503-0050.