

# FAQ for local jails and prescriber enrollment requirements

With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, Apple Health (Medicaid) can only use federal funds to pay for services that are ordered, prescribed, or referred by a health care professional that is enrolled as a Medicaid provider in the ProviderOne claims payment system.

**Q.** What is changing?

**A.** After August 1, 2013, the Health Care Authority (HCA) will only pay for Apple Health client prescriptions or orders if they are written by prescribers enrolled with or “known” to HCA as a Medicaid provider.

**Q.** How does this change affect the local jails?

**A.** In the case of a newly released inmate with a prescription written by a jail prescriber, if the released individual is eligible for Apple Health, the prescriber will be required to enroll in ProviderOne in order for the prescription to be filled and paid for by the agency.

**Q.** When the inmate is released, why would the local jail be concerned with written prescriptions?

**A.** If the released inmate with the prescription has or becomes eligible and the prescription was written by a non-Medicaid provider, the agency will not pay for the prescription. Some medications affect a person’s judgement, mental health status, and related actions which can result in a higher rate of reincarceration.

**Q.** What actions do the jails need to take?

**A.** Jails will need to ensure that their health care professionals are enrolled with the agency as Apple Health providers if they have prescription writing authority and write prescriptions to go with an inmate upon release.

**Q.** How does a provider enroll if needed?

**A.** There are options available to enroll as a Medicaid provider

1. Nonbilling providers: for those health care professionals that will never need to bill the agency for payment (ProviderOne system access is not needed for those providers using the Agreement for Nonbilling Individual Providers).
2. Traditional Core Provider Agreement (CPA): for those who wish to receive payment from the agency for services rendered.


Details on how to enroll for both options can be found on the [Enroll as a provider](#) webpage.

**Q.** How long does it take the agency to complete the enrollment process?

**A.** If all the necessary information is included and the provider passes a background check, expect up to 30 days to process the application.

**Q.** Is there a website specifically for jails that will help us navigate this new process?

**A.** No, the current online agency resources are for health care professionals with signed Core Provider Agreements.

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- Q.** Our jail system has many health care professionals. Is there a simple way to enroll them?
- A.** For those jail systems with numerous prescribing health care professional employees, please contact Provider Enrollment at 800-562-3022 extension 16137 for an option that may be available to streamline the enrollment process.
- Q.** One of our part time health care professionals would like to become a full time Apple Health provider and receive payment directly for qualifying services. How do they enroll in ProviderOne?
- A.** If the health care professional wants to bill Medicaid for services rendered in their private office practice, the process is available on the [Enroll as a provider](#) webpage for new providers to complete. If the person works at another clinic that sees Apple Health clients already, then the clinic can enroll that person.
- Q.** What is an NPI?
- A.** A National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a unique number used nationwide to identify eligible health care providers, clinics, and hospitals for use on claims and other electronic transmission of health information.
- Q.** We have a newly graduated health care professional that doesn't have an NPI yet. Where do they get their NPI number?
- A.** Individuals can request the free NPI through the federal [National Plan and Provider Enumeration System \(NPPES\)](#). City, county, and tribal jail systems and facilities would not be required by HCA to acquire an NPI (but all individuals enrolled with HCA by the jails will need to have an NPI).
- Q.** Our providers are already enrolled as Medicaid providers. Do we have to enroll them as nonbilling providers also?
- A.** No. If your providers are already enrolled in ProviderOne, no other action is required. If a provider is already enrolled with the agency and a nonbilling provider application is received, Provider Enrollment would contact the provider to verify which enrollment type is truly desired by the provider. A provider can only be a nonbilling provider or a billable provider, but not both.
- Q.** Will we have to do new work with new inmates to enroll them upon intake?
- A.** No. This process has nothing to do with inmate enrollment into Apple Health. The change is specific to enrolling practitioners in ProviderOne, either under our traditional Core Provider Agreement or as a nonbilling provider.
- Q.** The jail itself is not enrolled in ProviderOne. How will we check inmate eligibility for Apple Health?
- A.** As long as the client is incarcerated, Medicaid would not be paying any claims for that inmate. When an inmate is released and is or becomes Medicaid eligible, that is when the Medicaid benefits would become effective and why it is important for the prescriber to be enrolled with ProviderOne in order for the prescription or orders to be filled.
- Q.** How would the jails that have a medical office or a jail health clinic bill ProviderOne for the services provided?
- A.** Currently Apple Health does not pay for any medical services for incarcerated clients, this has not changed. This policy is only being put into place to allow ProviderOne to pay for services which are rendered past the inmate release, but ordered, prescribed, or referred by the jail prescriber as part of their release.