



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

March 26, 2020

CV-03

TO: Health Care Authority Staff
Home and Community Services Staff
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration Staff
Community Services Division Staff
Development Disabilities Administration Staff
Health Care Partners

FROM: Taylor Linke, Division Director
Medicaid Eligibility and Community Support, HCA

Babs Roberts, Director
Community Services Division, DSHS

Bea-Alise Rector, Director
Home and Community Services Division, ALTSA

Shannon Manion, Director, Division of Field Services
Developmental Disabilities Administration, DSHS

SUBJECT: Temporary Changes - Apple Health (Medicaid) Eligibility

In response to the public health emergency surrounding the outbreak of COVID-19, the Health Care Authority (HCA) is taking steps to ensure individuals maintain continuity of their Apple Health (Medicaid) coverage. This guidance is the third in a series of changes for Apple Health eligibility that will occur over the coming days and weeks for our clients.

As requests and approvals for additional federal/state authorities are evolving at a rapid pace, so is the correlating regulatory guidance for Medicaid eligibility. It is therefore imperative that you stay up-to-date on the most recent changes, so that we can support continuity of coverage for all of our covered lives.

In order to support the continuity of coverage, the Health Care Authority and its partners will immediately do the following for all Apple Health recipients:

1. Stop termination of coverage for all current recipients of Apple Health unless the individual:
 - a. Requests termination;

- b. Is no longer a Washington State resident; or
 - c. Is deceased.
2. All Apple Health renewals that have not already been completed for March and April will be extended in the system for three months. Ongoing months will be evaluated ongoing and more information will be provided as these decisions are made. Please note:
 - a. Extensions will happen automatically in the ACES eligibility system and ProviderOne and may not be immediately represented in Washington Healthplanfinder for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) cases; and
 - b. Individuals who make changes to their MAGI application during their extension and are no longer eligible for the program they are extended on will move to the program they are eligible for or will terminate if no longer eligible.
3. Eligibility workers will continue to verify individuals who have an unverified citizenship or immigration status and a missing or unverified social security number per 42 CFR § 435.956. Reasonable opportunity periods will be granted consistent with federal regulations.
4. Accept self-attestation for medical expenses incurred needed to meet spenddown amounts for purposes of medically needy eligibility. This includes use of medical expenses to reduce participation.
5. Postpone the processing of returned mail without forwarding addresses to ensure that coverage is not disrupted for displaced or homeless individuals.

For HCA staff who determine eligibility for MAGI Apple Health individuals:

6. Until further notice, stop the processing of terminations for income post-eligibility reviews.

If you have any further questions, please contact AHeligCovid19@hca.wa.gov. We appreciate your flexibility and responsiveness to support our Apple Health clients during this time.

cc: MaryAnne Lindeblad, Medicaid Director
Evelyn Perez, Developmental Disabilities Administration, DSHS
Bea Rector, Home and Community Services Division, AL TSA
Babs Roberts, Community Services Division, DSHS
Stacey Scott, Acting Chief Operations Officer, HBE
Jason McGill, Division Director, MPOI, HCA
Amy Dobbins, Section Manager, OMEP, MECS
Shannon Monroe, Section Manager, MEDS, MECS
Thanh Dizon, Section Manager, MACSC, MECS
Trinity Wilson, Operations Manager, MECS
Jennifer Ferguson, Office Chief, DSHS, AL TSA