



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

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March 23, 2020

CV-01

TO: Health Care Authority Staff
Health Care Partners

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

SUBJECT: Temporary Changes- Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Eligibility

In response to the public health emergency surrounding the outbreak of COVID-19, the Health Care Authority (HCA) will take steps to ensure individuals maintain continuity of their Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Apple Health (Medicaid) coverage. This guidance is the first in a series of changes for 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 Apple Health recipients, the Health Care Authority and its partners will immediately do the following:

Closure for No Renewal

For Individuals who have been closed for no renewal, assist them with processing their renewal. Take their statement of income, even if it has changed or they are no longer working. Individuals have 90 days from their closure date to complete their renewal without a gap of coverage.

Processing Retroactive Medical Coverage

For Individuals who have applied for retro coverage and are unable to provide verification due to circumstances of COVID-19, HCA will take attestation of their income for the retro months of coverage they are unable to provide verification for. This will start as of February 2020 and be available for any months the individual was impacted for.

Extensions to Provide for Verification

Individuals who request additional time to provide verification due to circumstances related to COVID-19 may be granted an additional 30 days to provide verification. Individuals who require additional time and keep in contact with HCA may request additional time on a case by case basis. As always, HCA will be flexible with individuals on what types of verification they are able to provide during this time.

Change of Circumstances

Individuals can call in to report they are not currently receiving income or are now receiving unemployment compensation. Individuals' applications will be updated based on their attestation. HCA staff also have the ability to help individuals check the amount of unemployment compensation benefits in UTAB for ongoing anticipated income. Individuals are required to report any change of income that is anticipated to last longer than 30 days.

Premiums

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Individuals who report they are affected by COVID-19 may have their CHIP balances written off if they are:

- Unable to pay their CHIP premiums; or
- Not currently eligible for CHIP due to past due CHIP premiums.

HCA Medical Eligibility Determination Services (MEDS) can have this write-off request sent to the Office of Financial Recovery (OFR) for processing.

Homeless Individuals

Individuals who are homeless and have been closed for whereabouts unknown will have their coverage reinstated based on their attestation of their current circumstances.

Residency

HCA is granting flexibility around eligibility for individuals who are not Washington residents but are quarantined in the state due to COVID-19. These individuals will need to be routed to MEDS at HCA for application processing and tracking.

Individuals who are currently out of state and need COVID-19 testing are able to get these services while out of state.

If you have any further questions, please contact Maggie Clay by email at Margaret.clay@hca.wa.gov or Amy Dobbins by email at amy.dobbins@hca.wa.gov. We appreciate your flexibility and responsiveness to support our Apple Health clients during this time.

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