

Apple Health managed care reprocurement update

During the public health emergency (PHE) the Health Care Authority (HCA) extended coverage for all Apple Health (Medicaid) clients. This extension is now ending due to the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2023.

This will entail an intensive effort across state agencies and partners, thus necessitating reprioritization of our work, including our timing for reprocurement of Apple Health managed care contracts. While initial thinking and planning has occurred, we are early in the effort. This doesn't mean we are not pursuing reprocurement, but the timing must shift based on the more immediate priority.

Apple Health (Medicaid) reprocurement remains a priority for the agency. However, our current focus must remain on the Public Health Emergency unwind, and the federal timeline requires Apple Health eligibility redeterminations to begin in full starting April.

Additionally, many HCA staff working on Apple Health redeterminations and the PHE unwind would be the same staff to work on reprocurement. We must take resource and system partner capacity into consideration to successfully achieve the significant work immediately in front of us.

Why a reprocurement?

It has been more than ten years since HCA has last procured managed care. Most states reprocure more frequently because it is a critical tool for states to ensure strong contracting partners.

Although we have many accountability measures under current contract, certain actions cannot be made through contract amendments, such as selecting new contractors, significantly changing the contractor requirements, and generally intensifying accountability measures beyond those allowed in the initial request for proposals.

With behavioral health integration, the COVID-19 pandemic, and our 1115 Medicaid Transformation waiver pending, the state has identified many issues that could, in part, be addressed through a procurement process.

In the meantime, HCA will make any needed adjustments via contract.

Current activities

Internally, we continue to explore reprocurement, refining the agency's vision and goals.

Due to the substantial resources needed to address the new Congressional legislation that requires HCA to begin normal enrollment operations beginning April 1, we have currently paused our procurement workgroup. However, we continue to have conversations with MCOs, Tribal governments, physical and behavioral health care providers, and stakeholders.

As we gear up for the redetermination process, we are working closely with the Health Benefit Exchange and the Department of Social and Health Services to prepare and help transition people to other coverage if they are no longer eligible for Apple Health.

We commit to engaging our legislative partners in ensuring a sound, effective, and appropriately timed reprocurement process.

Contact us

- Apple Health reprocurement
 - Email: HCAmpdbusops@hca.wa.gov
- Apple Health redeterminations and the end of the PHE
 - Email: AHeligCOVID19@hca.wa.gov