

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Department of Health Care Finance**



Office of the Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

**Transmittal 23-20**

**TO:** DC Medicaid Providers

**FROM:** Melisa Byrd  
Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

**DATE:** April 12, 2023

**SUBJECT: Termination of the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) and Extension of COVID-19 Disaster Relief Policies**

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**Purpose**

On February 9, 2023, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the COVID-19 PHE would end on May 11, 2023. During the COVID-19 PHE, DHCF implemented policies and procedures which are different from the policies and procedures that otherwise apply under the District of Columbia State Plan for Medical Assistance (State Plan). These changes allowed DHCF to be responsive to the changing health care delivery system for Medicaid beneficiaries during the COVID-19 PHE. Because these changes were not intended to permanently replace State Plan policies and procedures, some will expire with the termination of the COVID-19 PHE.

This transmittal provides notice of disaster relief policies that DHCF intends to extend beyond the termination of the PHE and further information on policies that will end for dates of service effective May 12, 2023, and beyond.

The proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) will extend certain flexibilities adopted during the COVID-19 public health emergency which is scheduled to expire on May 11, 2023. Specifically, the SPA will extend all flexibilities approved in SPA [DC-20-0001](#). The following disaster relief policies will be extended through **May 11, 2024, or until approved permanently under the State Plan:**

- The newly established, per member per quarter reimbursement methodology for My Health GPS providers, and the delayed implementation of the My Health GPS pay for performance and quality reporting requirements; and
- My Health GPS health home programmatic changes, including assessment changes and elimination of acuity tiers.

The following disaster relief policies, approved in [DC-20-0001](#), will be extended to **November 11, 2023:**

- Changes in benefits and reimbursement for 1915(i) Adult Day Health Program (ADHP) services;
- Increases in reimbursement rates for personal care aide services (overtime and quarantine rates); and
- Increases in reimbursement rates for in-home skilled nursing and private duty nursing services (overtime and quarantine rates).

The remaining disaster relief policies, approved in [DC-20-0001](#) will be extended to **July 11, 2023,** and include:

- Increases in reimbursement rates for nursing facility services; and
- Increases in reimbursement rates for intermediate care facility services for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

As a reminder, the District already submitted an amendment ([DC-22-0011](#)) to the State Plan to preserve temporary changes made to coverage of COVID-19 related testing, vaccination, and administration of COVID-19 vaccines. In accordance with requirements established under the American Rescue Plan Act, these changes will remain in place at least through July 31, 2024.

Additionally, this SPA will extend the following disaster relief policies through **May 11, 2024, or until adopted permanently under the state Medicaid Plan:**

- The delay in rebasing rates for federal qualified health centers, approved under [DC-21-0020](#);
- The delay in rebasing for specialty hospitals, approved under [DC-22-0010](#);
- The modification of criteria for 1915(i) Housing Supportive Services (HSS) case manager supervisors, submitted to CMS under DC-23-0001 on March 3, 2023;
- The modification of the reevaluation process for HSS participants, submitted to CMS under DC-23-0003 on April 4, 2023;
- Supplemental payments to direct care workers, submitted to CMS under DC-23-0003 on April 4, 2023.

DHCF projects no fiscal impact will be associated with extending these disaster relief flexibilities.

Additional information on services that will terminate on May 11, 2023, can be found in DHCF's [Operational Plan for Unwinding Continuous Coverage and the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#).

## Contact

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DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers  
DC Health Care Association  
DC Home Health Association  
DC Hospital Association  
DC Medical Care Advisory Committee Stakeholders  
DC Primary Care Association  
Medical Society of the District of Columbia