

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Deputy Director-Medicaid

Transmittal # 20-10

TO: All DC Medicaid Providers

FROM: Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: March 27, 2020

SUBJECT: **Temporary Eligibility Policy Changes for Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Alliance, and Immigrant Children’s Programs in Response to Public Health Emergency COVID-19**

The purpose of this transmittal is to notify all Medicaid providers of changes to eligibility policies for the Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), DC Healthcare Alliance (Alliance), and Immigrant Children’s Program (ICP). On March 17, 2020, Mayor Bowser signed the “COVID-19 Response Emergency Amendment Act of 2020” (D.C. Law A23-0247, Expires on Jun 15, 2020). This Act allows the Mayor to extend the eligibility period for individuals receiving benefits and take such other actions as the Mayor determines appropriate to support continuity of, and access to, any public benefit program. This transmittal describes the actions taken by DHCF to implement the “COVID-19 Response Emergency Amendment Act of 2020.” These changes are effective for the duration of the Public Health Emergency declared by Mayor Bowser on March 11, 2020, plus an additional 60 days.

In consideration of the declaration of a Public Health Emergency by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Emergency by the President of the United States of America, and the Public Health Emergency by the District of Columbia Government, the D.C. Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF), in its capacity as the single state agency for administering the Medicaid program, CHIP, Alliance, and ICP in the District of Columbia, has adopted temporary eligibility related policy changes, as follows:

| Program | D.C. Medicaid and CHIP Programs |
|---|---|
| Temporary Policy Change(s) During the Pendency of the District Public Health Emergency, plus an additional 60 days | A. For <u>currently enrolled</u> D.C. Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Eligibility will be <i>automatically extended</i> (no beneficiary action required)b. The requirement to report individual or household changes in circumstance is <i>waived</i>c. Any individuals whose eligibility was dependent upon submission of additional information as of March 11, 2020 will be automatically extendedd. Any pending terminations of eligibility effective after March 11, 2020 are withdrawn and eligibility is extended |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| | <p>B. For <u>newly enrolling</u> applicants: DHCf will allow self-attestation of verification requirements without requiring documentation <i>except for</i>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. U.S. citizenship and eligible immigration status ii. Level of care determination for applications for long term care services and supports and Katie Beckett/TEFFRA eligibility groups. <p>C. Administrative/Operational Changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. DHCf may exercise extended time to make eligibility determinations if needed to ensure continuity of all essential operations while balancing reduced workforce and resource reallocation b. DHCf is not required to act on any changes in circumstance that might affect eligibility c. DHCf reserves the right to waive the level of care requirements for determinations of eligibility for long term services and supports or TEFFRA/Katie Beckett in emergency circumstances identified by DHCf that impede access to the level of care assessment vendor, the beneficiary, or the technology needed to perform the assessments. |
| Effective Date | March 11, 2020 |
| End Date | End of District Public Health Emergency declaration, plus 60 days |
| Agency Point of Contact | Danielle Lewis Wright, Associate Director, Division of Eligibility Policy, Health Care Policy and Research Administration danielle.lewis-wright@dc.gov ; Alice Weiss, Director, Health Care Policy and Research Administration; alice.weiss@dc.gov |

| | |
|---|---|
| Program | D.C. Healthcare Alliance Program (Alliance) |
| Temporary Policy Change(s) During the Pendency of the District Public Health Emergency, plus an additional 60 days | <p>A. For currently enrolled Alliance beneficiaries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Eligibility will be automatically extended (no beneficiary action, including face-to-face interview, required) b. The requirement to report individual or household changes in circumstance is <i>waived</i> c. Any individuals whose eligibility was dependent upon submission of additional information will be automatically extended d. Any pending terminations of eligibility effective after March 11, 2020 are withdrawn and eligibility is extended <p>B. For newly enrolling applicants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The requirement for face-to-face application is waived b. DHCf will allow self-attestation of verification requirements except U.S. citizenship and eligible immigration status, where applicable to determine ineligibility for Medicaid |
| Effective Date | March 11, 2020 |
| End Date | End of District Public Health Emergency declaration, plus 60 days |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Agency Point of Contact | Danielle Lewis Wright, Associate Director, Division of Eligibility Policy, Health Care Policy and Research Administration danielle.lewis-wright@dc.gov ; Alice Weiss, Director, Health Care Policy and Research Administration; alice.weiss@dc.gov |
|--------------------------------|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| Program | D.C. Immigrant Children's Program |
| Temporary Policy Change(s) During the Pendency of the District Public Health Emergency, plus an additional 60 days | <p>A. For currently enrolled Immigrant Children's Program beneficiaries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Eligibility will be automatically extended (no beneficiary action required) b. The requirement to report individual or household changes in circumstance is <i>waived</i> c. Any individuals whose eligibility was dependent upon submission of additional information will be automatically extended d. Any pending terminations of eligibility effective after March 11, 2020 are withdrawn and eligibility is extended <p>B. For newly enrolling applicants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. DHCF will allow self-attestation of verification requirements except U.S. citizenship and eligible immigration status, where applicable to determine ineligibility for Medicaid |
| Effective Date | March 11, 2020 |
| End Date | End of District Public Health Emergency declaration, plus 60 days |
| Agency Point of Contact | Danielle Lewis Wright, Associate Director, Division of Eligibility Policy, Health Care Policy and Research Administration danielle.lewis-wright@dc.gov ; Alice Weiss, Director, Health Care Policy and Research Administration; alice.weiss@dc.gov |

Cc: DC Hospital Association
DC Primary Care Association
DC Health Care Association
DC Home Health Association
DC Behavioral Health Association
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers
DC Medical Society