

Medical Assistance (MA) Unwinding Update

Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS)
Subcommittee Meeting

February 1, 2023

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Continuous MA Coverage Requirement

- Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 Signed into law on December 29, 2022, separating the continuous MA coverage requirement from the Public Health Emergency (PHE)
- Continuous MA coverage requirement ends March 31, 2023. MA Renewals processed April 1, 2023, and later can result in MA closure.

Returning to Normal Operations

- Affordable medical coverage options like Pennie for those found no longer eligible for MA
- 12-month MA unwinding period to complete renewals
- Update contact information with the PA Department of Human Services (DHS)
- DHS working to keep stakeholders informed
- Find current information at www.dhs.pa.gov/phe

Medical Assistance & CHIP Renewals Website

[Department of Human Services](#) > Medical Assistance & CHIP Renewals


Medical Assistance & CHIP Renewals

Changes effective April 1, 2023 due to the end of a federal pandemic policy


Due to federal COVID-19 relief efforts, Pennsylvania and other states were **able to continue Medical Assistance (MA) (also known Medicaid) and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage** for most people even if they no longer met eligibility requirements unless they:

- Moved out-of-state,
- Passed away, or
- Asked to end their Medical Assistance (MA).

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 set April 1, 2023 as the end of continuous coverage for MA and CHIP. After April 1, 2023, DHS will return to normal eligibility processes. This means that all MA and CHIP recipients must complete an annual renewal to see if they are still eligible for coverage. **MA and CHIP recipients should watch for their renewal and complete it as soon as they can to avoid a loss of coverage.**

DHS and our partners at [Pennie](#)  (Pennsylvania's official health and dental insurance marketplace) are working hard to make sure that Pennsylvanians can get coverage either through MA, the [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#), or affordable coverage available through pennie.com.

Related Information


 [MA & CHIP Renewal Home](#)

 [Become a Helper](#)

 [Stakeholder Toolkit](#)

 [Glossary](#)

 [FAQs](#)

 [Videos & Webinars](#)

 [MA & CHIP Recipient Communications](#)

BECOME A HELPER

[Sign up to get trusted MA and CHIP renewal information via email.](#)

MA Renewal Process

- Letter sent 90 days prior to renewal due date letting individuals know DHS will review their benefits soon
- The month before the renewal is due, automated review process occurs to attempt to automatically renew individuals based on electronic data sources.
- MA recipients not automatically renewed through the automated process will receive renewal packets the month before their renewal takes place.

MA Renewal Process, continued

- MA recipients have 30 days to return this packet. Once their renewal packet and supporting documents are received, a caseworker will update the information in the case and run an eligibility determination.
- MA eligible individuals will be renewed for coverage.
- MA ineligible individuals will receive a notice alerting them that their MA budget will close.

MA Renewal Process, continued

- If individuals do not provide their renewal packet by the due date, their case will be closed for failure to provide necessary information and they will receive a notice alerting them that their case will close.
- DHS provides referrals to other sources of affordable medical coverage like CHIP and Pennie for MA ineligible individuals.

MA Renewal Process, continued

- Individuals whose MA budgets are closed can always reapply or appeal the decision.
- If the individual did not complete the renewal process, MA eligibility can be reconsidered without the need to submit a new application, within 90 days of the date MA benefits were closed.
- More Information about renewals on the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page of www.dhs.pa.gov/phe

Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) Work

- Staff attending DHS-wide and internal meetings
- Keeping OLTL stakeholders updated
- OLTL participant numbers as of December 4, 2022 [participants either maintained despite not meeting criteria since their last renewal, or despite failing to provide their renewal]:
 - CHC- 98,549
 - Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE)- 1,570
 - OBRA- 51

Maintained CHC Participants

AmeriHealth Caritas/Keystone First

41,587 individuals with AmeriHealth Caritas/Keystone First were maintained despite not meeting eligibility criteria, or despite failing to complete the renewal process.

- 14,755 AmeriHealth Caritas/Keystone First individuals were maintained despite not meeting eligibility criteria
 - 1,498 of those individuals were in CHC with HCBS
 - 578 of those individuals in CHC with facility code 36 which indicates they're in a skilled nursing facility.
 - 12,679 were NFI duals
- 26,832 AmeriHealth Caritas/Keystone First individuals had not completed the renewal process
 - 8,619 of those individuals were in CHC with HCBS
 - 2,727 of those individuals were in CHC with facility code 36 which indicates they're in a skilled nursing facility.
 - 15,486 were NFI duals

Maintained CHC Participants

Pennsylvania Health & Wellness

22,236 individuals with Pennsylvania Health & Wellness were maintained despite not meeting eligibility criteria or, despite failing to complete the renewal process.

- 6,953 individuals with PHW were maintained despite not meeting eligibility criteria
 - 574 of those individuals were in CHC with HCBS
 - 585 of those individuals in CHC with facility code 36 which indicates they're in a skilled nursing facility.
 - 5,794 were NFI duals
- 15,283 individuals with Pennsylvania Health & Wellness had not completed the renewal process
 - 3,234 of those individuals were in CHC with HCBS
 - 2,654 of those individuals were in CHC with facility code 36 which indicates they're in a skilled nursing facility.
 - 9,395 were NFI duals

Data on this slide is from December 4, 2022

Maintained CHC Participants

UPMC Community HealthChoices

34,726 individuals with UPMC CHC were maintained despite not meeting eligibility criteria, or despite failing to provide renewal.

- 12,787 individuals with UPMC CHC were maintained despite not meeting eligibility criteria
 - 847 of those individuals were in CHC with HCBS
 - 562 of those individuals in CHC with facility code 36 which indicates they're in a skilled nursing facility.
 - 11,378 were NFI duals
- 21,939 individuals in UPMC CHC had not completed the renewal process
 - 4,803 of those individuals were in CHC with HCBS
 - 2,662 of those individuals were in CHC with facility code 36 which indicates they're in a skilled nursing facility.
 - 14,474 were NFI duals

Data on this slide is from December 4, 2022

Questions

