



South Dakota
Department of
Social Services

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES
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PIERRE, SD 57501-2291
PHONE: 605.773.3495
FAX: 605.773.5246
WEB: dss.sd.gov

February 22, 2023

Attention: South Dakota Medicaid Providers
From: South Dakota Medicaid
RE: Important Changes Coming Soon to Medicaid Eligibility

Important Changes Coming Soon to Medicaid Eligibility:

Due to the COVID-19 federal public health emergency (PHE), federal regulations did not allow Medicaid to close coverage even if a recipient was no longer eligible for Medicaid. Effective April 1, 2023, federal regulations will again allow for Medicaid to close if a recipient is no longer eligible.

To keep providers, stakeholders, and Medicaid recipients informed about the changes to Medicaid eligibility, South Dakota Medicaid will post updates and resources to our new webpage detailing [Important Changes Coming Soon to Medicaid Eligibility](#). Please check this webpage often for changes.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) has been proactively planning for this change to Medicaid eligibility and the return to normal operations. This included providing regular updates to Medicaid recipients, alerting them to the unwinding process, and reminding them to keep their information current so they would continue to receive information when the unwinding process would begin. A copy of the most recent communication to Medicaid recipients about the changes to Medicaid eligibility is [available online](#).

South Dakota's plan to return to normal operations prioritizes cases for review, focusing first on cases most likely to be ineligible based on those who no longer meet a coverage group, aged out of a coverage group, a coverage group time limit has expired, or there has been an increase in income. DSS estimates it will take 9-12 months to work through all cases. South Dakota Medicaid plans to share cases that will be prioritized for review with Health Home and Primary Care Providers.

Consistent with federal requirements, DSS staff began notifying applicants starting in February 2023 of the renewal requirement, and actions based on the renewal process findings will not begin before April 2023. DSS will evaluate each individual's case to determine if the individual meets the criteria for another Medicaid eligibility category prior to closing any case. If an individual is eligible for another eligibility category, they will continue to receive coverage.

Individuals who lose coverage are eligible for a special enrollment period in the Health Insurance Marketplace. For more information on the Health Insurance Marketplace, please call (800) 318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325) or visit www.healthcare.gov. Local trained navigators are available to help individuals find a plan and assist individuals in the Health Insurance Marketplace enrollment process. To connect with local navigator resources, visit: www.getcoveredsouthdakota.org

Provider Webinars:

South Dakota Medicaid will host two provider webinars regarding the expiration of continuous coverage and return to normal operations. Information can be found [here](#).

The Department of Social Services does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, activities, or services. For more information about this policy or to file a Discrimination Complaint you may contact: Discrimination Coordinator, Director of DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governor's Drive, Pierre SD 57501, 605-773-3305.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-305-9673 (TTY: 711).

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1-800-305-9673 (TTY: 711).

What can you do to help?

Remind recipients to notify their [local office](#) of any changes to address or phone numbers and to open all mail from DSS. Recipients can also use the [DSS-EA-310 Change Report Form](#) to report changes in contact information or circumstances that could affect their eligibility. Only areas with a change need to be completed. All forms must be signed. Providers may assist recipients with completing this form. *If you are sending this form in on their behalf, please fax or email the signed form to DSS immediately.* See page 3 for a list of DSS offices and contact information.

Sincerely,

South Dakota Medicaid

ABERDEEN

Fax: 605.626.2610

DSSRegion5EA@state.sd.us**BELLE FOURCE**

Fax: 605.892.3616

RCCustomersupport@state.sd.us**BROOKINGS**

Fax: 605.688.4339

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DSSRegion6EA@state.sd.us**FORT THOMPSON**

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