

Medicaid Renewal Processes Begin Again

During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), Colorado temporarily stopped eligibility reviews for people enrolled in Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+), in accordance with federal directives. Now that the PHE has ended, states are returning to normal operations. This means your patients as well as employees or their family members currently covered by Health First Colorado or CHP+ could lose their health coverage any time between May 2023 and April 2024.

If someone's circumstances have changed since enrolling in Health First Colorado - such as starting a new job that might put them over income limits - they should begin researching other health care coverage options to avoid becoming uninsured. The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) estimates that more than 325,000 participants will no longer be eligible for Health First Colorado or CHP+ and will need to find another form of health care coverage.

How can hospitals help patients during the PHE unwinding process?

You can help raise member awareness about Medicaid renewals by sharing the messaging in our toolkits and by [posting flyers in public areas and reception desks](#). HCPF has developed partner toolkits to aid in the return to regular renewal processes. [Update Your Address](#) and [Take Action on Your Renewal](#) toolkits all include resources to help members take action to keep their coverage. These materials identify key actions for members to take: updating their contact information, taking action when a renewal is due, and seeking help with renewals at community or county resources when they need it.

Healthcare professionals and hospital staff can educate themselves on the basics of the renewal process to assist members who may need help. See our [Renewal Education toolkit](#). [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) about the end of the continuous coverage requirement and return to regular renewal processes are available in the [PHE Planning Resource Center](#).

Members with questions about the renewal process can be referred to the Health First Colorado's renewal webpage available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Thank you for your collaboration!

How can hospitals help their employees navigate this change?

Hospitals are in a unique position to be able to help patients and also their employees who may be covered by Health First Colorado. You can help your employees by proactively communicating health coverage options. HCPF, along with our regional

health plan partners, is reaching out to members directly and has launched a public information campaign. Employees who may lose coverage through Health First Colorado will likely have questions. Here are some resources you can provide:

- **Remind your employees about health coverage options you provide as their employer, and how to apply.** Also remind them of the window of time they have to apply. Losing Medicaid coverage is a qualifying event to enroll in employer-sponsored coverage outside the normal enrollment period.
- **If you do not offer employee benefit coverage, and your employee no longer qualifies for Health First Colorado or CHP+ coverage, they may qualify for reduced-cost health insurance coverage through [Connect for Health Colorado](#).** Losing Health First Colorado or CHP+ coverage is a “qualifying event,” which means they can apply for health insurance through Connect for Health Colorado during a special enrollment period.
- **Refer affected employees to the [Health First Colorado website](#) to learn more about the renewal process and their other coverage options.**

Please share these [digital flyers](#) with your employees which outline the above points. Visit [#KeepCOCovered](#) for more information and resources on how to help patients and employees who need to find other health care coverage.

The end of the PHE will bring many changes, and hospitals have an important role in helping their patients and staff navigate it all. **We appreciate your partnership to Keep Coloradans covered, which is in the best interest of Coloradans, care providers, and our economy.**