

First Friday Forum

HCA Update
September 3, 2021

Shaunie McLeod
Medicaid Eligibility Policy Manager
Office of Medicaid Eligibility Policy

Agenda

- ▶ Public Health Emergency (PHE)
- ▶ Postpartum coverage extension
- ▶ Compact of Free Association (COFA) Islander programs
- ▶ Justice involved re-entry
- ▶ Consumer Notices Workgroup
- ▶ Retro
- ▶ Questions

Public Health Emergency

Public Health Emergency

- ▶ The Public Health Emergency (PHE) was renewed and extended through October 18, 2021.
- ▶ According to the [HHS letter to Governors*](#), the PHE could be extended through the rest of 2021.
- ▶ Health Care Authority (HCA) and its partners continue to maintain coverage for Apple Health clients by extending Apple Health coverage during the PHE. HCA will continue to share updates as new information becomes available.

*Source: https://f.datasrvr.com/fr1/621/80970/PHE_Extension.HHS_letter_to_Governors.pdf

Unwinding of the PHE

- ▶ Based on CMS guidelines, the Office of Medicaid Eligibility Policy (OMEP) continues to ensure the unwinding timeline follows these basic principles:
 - ▶ Simple for consumers.
 - ▶ Mindful of the work HCA eligibility staff will have to perform.
 - ▶ Considers the different needs of MAGI and Non-MAGI programs.

COVID-19 resources

- ▶ **Apple eligibility and COVID-19:**
HCAAHEligCovid19@hca.wa.gov
- ▶ **HCA information on COVID-19:**
hca.wa.gov/coronavirus
- ▶ **HCA stakeholder training & education resources:**
hca.wa.gov/stakeholder-training
- ▶ **HCA reference guides:**
hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/reference-guides

Washington Listens

[WAListsens.org](https://www.walistsens.org) helps people manage stress and anxiety they may be experiencing because of COVID-19.



Postpartum coverage extension

Postpartum coverage extension

- ▶ HCA continues to work on policy and system support with its business partners.
- ▶ The Outreach workgroup is scheduled to meet on Sep 15 to work on specific communication for diverse populations regarding postpartum coverage.
- ▶ HCA is engaging with external business partners to gather ideas on different outreach approaches. The results of these efforts will tie back to the postpartum outreach workgroup.



**COFA Islander
Programs**

COFA Islander programs

- ▶ As of July 1, COFA islanders under age 65, without Medicare, have transitioned to Apple Health.
- ▶ COFA Islanders aged 65 and older or those who have Medicare must apply for Apple Health via washingtonconnection.org.
 - ▶ They will remain on COFA Islander programs until the eligibility determination is complete.

COFA Islander programs

- ▶ The COFA card or Navia card can only be used to pay outstanding bills generated during the time an individual had COFA Islander Health Care and COFA Islander Dental Care.
- ▶ The Navia card cannot be used to pay for bills related to services received while on Apple Health.
- ▶ One benefit of having Apple Health is that there are no co-payments, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses.
- ▶ For more information, visit hca.wa.gov/COFA

COFA resources

- ▶ COFA Islander Health Care program managers:
 - ▶ Ariel.Pyrtek@hca.wa.gov
 - ▶ Roslyn.LeonGuerrero@hca.wa.gov

- ✓ **Website:** hca.wa.gov/cofa
- ✓ **Email:** COFAQuestions@hca.wa.gov
- ✓ **Phone:** 1-800-547-3109

- ▶ Visit hca.wa.gov/cofa for new outreach materials!
 - ▶ Apple Health for COFA Islanders
 - ▶ Apple Health restoration for COFA Islanders FAQ

Justice involved re-entry



Re-entry

- ▶ New legislation directs HCA to re-evaluate the suspension process for incarcerated individuals and the improvement of coordination and pre-release planning between the Department of Corrections, local jails, juvenile rehabilitation, and Apple Health managed care organizations.
- ▶ HCA has formed a re-entry workgroup and several subgroups with stakeholders, business partners, providers, and managed care organizations to consider ways to improve re-entry medical services for individuals entering and existing in an institution.

HRSA uninsured program



HRSA program

- ▶ The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Uninsured Program provides claims reimbursement at Medicare rates to health care providers for COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccinations of uninsured individuals.
- ▶ Citizenship and immigration does not have to be verified for providers to be reimbursed.

HRSA program

- ▶ Why would a provider choose reimbursement through the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program instead of Alien Emergency Medical (AEM)?

| HRSA Portal | AEM |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicare reimbursement rate | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicaid rate (lower) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broad covered services | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited to emergency services |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No verification of immigration status | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Income limits apply |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provider driven | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The client has to apply |

HRSA resources

- ▶ **Claims program overview:**
hrsa.gov/CovidUninsuredClaim
- ▶ **COVID-19 uninsured FAQ:**
hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim/frequently-asked-questions
- ▶ **HRSA COVID-19 uninsured portal user guide:**
chameleoncloud.io/review/2957-5e98adf692326/prod
- ▶ **HRSA patient flyer**
hhs.gov/sites/default/files/uninsured-patient-covid-services-poster.pdf
- ▶ **HRSA patient flyer (Español)**
hhs.gov/sites/default/files/uninsured-patient-covid-services-poster-spanish.pdf

Consumer Notices Workgroup



Consumer Notices Workgroup

The Washington Apple Health Consumer Notices Workgroup* includes consumers, advocates, and agency representatives. This collaboration focuses on improving Apple Health notices in Washington Healthplanfinder.



If you know of any consumers wanting to participate in our workgroup, contact: Paige.Lewis@hca.wa.gov

*Source: hca.wa.gov/about-hca/apple-health-medicaid/consumer-notices-workgroup

Retro

MAGI retro

| Oldest received date | Cases to be worked |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 8/25/2021 | 0 |



Questions

MEDS email:

AskMAGI@hca.wa.gov

Managed Care questions:

HCAMCPrograms@hca.wa.gov

Email verification:

Apple@hca.wa.gov

Data requests:

HCADData@hca.wa.gov