

Medicaid Redeterminations Resume in 2023



The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) directed states to maintain Medicaid health coverage for individuals enrolled on or after March 18, 2020, regardless of changes in their circumstances through the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). In return, states received enhanced funding through a 6.2 percentage point increase in the Medicaid federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). Virginia has received nearly \$2.5 billion in enhanced federal funding during the pandemic.

The 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), which was passed in December 2022, included the decoupling of the continuous coverage requirements for Medicaid from the PHE. In April 2023, Virginia returned to normal operations and began to re-determine eligibility for many Medicaid members for the first time since the start of pandemic.

In addition to providing a date certain for a return to normal Medicaid processing, the CAA allowed for a step-down of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) throughout the end of December 2023 as follows:

Calendar Year Quarter	Medicaid Enhanced FMAP
Q1 2023 (January – March)	6.2%
Q2 2023 (April – June)	5.0%
Q3 2023 (July – Sept)	2.5%
Q4 2023 (October – December)	1.5%

Returning to Normal Operations: Planning

Virginia, like other states, has experienced significant enrollment growth (39%, or an increase of 601,748 members from March 2020 through January 2023) as people have retained Medicaid coverage throughout the pandemic. The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) estimates that roughly 14% of the Commonwealth’s total Medicaid members may lose coverage during redetermination, and up to 4% of recipients may lose and regain coverage (churn) within one to six months of cancellation.

During the 2021 Special Session, the General Assembly appropriated a total of \$15 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to assist with unwinding-related work. DMAS has requested an additional \$20 million in ARPA funding and \$3.3 million in general funds. These requests are currently before the General Assembly for approval. If approved, the additional funding request will be used by

2023 Medicaid Redetermination

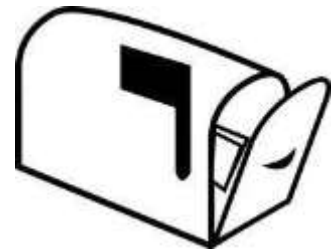
DMAS to temporarily expand operations at the state's Medicaid call and processing center to assist local agencies over the redetermination period.

DMAS and the Department of Social Services (DSS) have collaborated on a variety of activities in preparation for this significant initiative. In Virginia, at least a third of all renewals have traditionally been completed through a no-touch process using available data sources. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Virginia has continued to renew Medicaid members using this automated process, reducing workloads for local social services agencies at the end of the continuous coverage requirements. Although federal rules require states to re-evaluate all members, this ongoing work to keep member eligibility up to date will help to support smooth and efficient operations during redetermination. Additionally, the agencies have collaborated to:

- Make systems updates to improve the efficiency of the review/redetermination process and increase automation.
- Develop of a comprehensive project plan to redetermine eligibility for all Medicaid/CHIP members timely and accurately.
- Craft a communications plan to ensure members understand the steps they need to take, when to act, and what to do to maintain coverage.
- Collaborate with managed care health plans to share information with members, ensure up-to-date member contact information and remind members to complete their renewal.
- Identify which federal flexibilities may be maintained as well as new strategies the Commonwealth may want to leverage to help with the redetermination process.

How You Can Help

Help us spread the word to your constituents that they need to update their contact information now to prepare for the redetermination process.



- [Use our toolkits](#) to share fact sheets and FAQs in different languages with constituents who visit your office and at constituent events.
- [Display posters in your office in different languages.](#)
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and Instagram, and [sign up for email and text updates.](#)

Learn more about how DMAS and DSS are preparing for this initiative, so you are ready to help your constituents when they have questions.

- Contact us at DMASInfo@dmavirginia.gov.
- [Read about Medicaid policies on eligibility, enrollment and appeals.](#)