



**Office of
Mental Health**

OMH Quarterly Provider Billing Call: Overview of Medicaid Pharmacy Transition and Continuous Medicaid Enrollment Unwind

March 7, 2023

Medicaid Managed Care Pharmacy Benefit Transition to Fee-For- Service



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Mental Health**

Medicaid Pharmacy Benefit Transition

- On April 1, 2023 the pharmacy benefit will shift from Medicaid managed care (Mainstream Plans, HARPs, and HIV SNPs) to the Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) pharmacy program, called NYRx
 - Will not apply to Essential Plan, Child Health Plus (CHP), or Medicaid Advantage Plus (MAP) Plan enrollees

NYRx Prior Authorization Process

- Prior authorizations issued by Medicaid managed care plans prior to April 1st (that remain active/valid after April 1st) will be honored in NYRx throughout the authorization period assigned by the MMCP
 - Once the managed care prior authorization expires, a FFS prior authorization will be required
- Individuals prescribed a medication not on the [FFS preferred drug list](#) and who do not have an existing MMCP prior authorization will need to either switch medications or receive [NYRx prior authorization](#)
- DOH and its contractors have an automated prior authorization adjudication process where requests meeting clinical criteria are bypassed when justified based on managed care claims
 - Automatic approvals are generated 50% of the time

NYRx Transition Period

- A three-month transition period (April 1 through June 30, 2023) will allow members to receive a one-time fill of a non-formulary/non-preferred product
 - This allows additional time for prescribers to either seek prior authorization or change to a preferred drug not requiring prior authorization

Prescriber Medicaid Enrollment

- Prescribers and pharmacies must be enrolled in Medicaid FFS to prescribe or dispense prescriptions to Medicaid enrollees
- The following tools can be used to confirm prescriber Medicaid enrollment:
 - [Medicaid Enrolled Provider Lookup Tool](#)
 - [eMedNY Enrolled Practitioners Search](#) (including OPRAs)
- eMedNY enrollment information: [How to Enroll as a Provider of Services for the NYS Medicaid Program](#)
- eMedNY webpage: [Provider Enrollment & Maintenance Webpage](#)
- Providers can contact eMedNY for assistance with Medicaid enrollment, billing, and ePACES
 - eMedNY website: <https://www.emedny.org/>
 - eMedNY phone: (800) 343-9000
- Upcoming trainings: <https://www.emedny.org/training/index.aspx>

Pharmacy Benefit Transition Resources

DOH Pharmacy Benefit Transition for providers:

- [DOH Pharmacy Benefit Transition Webpage](#)
 1. [DOH Pharmacy Transition Document Repository](#): Includes Medicaid Updates, Stakeholder presentations, and additional resources
 2. [Pharmacy Transition Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs- DOH\)](#)
 3. [Pharmacy Quick Reference Guide](#)
 4. DOH Pharmacy Transition email: NYRx@health.ny.gov – include “Pharmacy Benefit Transition” in the email subject

DOH Pharmacy Benefit Transition for members:

- [Member Dashboard](#)
- Next All Stakeholders Meeting:
 - March 21, 2023, at 1:00 PM
 - Registration information to be sent one week prior via the MRT Listserv and posted on the [pharmacy transition website](#)

Continuous Medicaid Enrollment Unwind



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Overview

- NYS will begin conducting Medicaid recertifications in April 2023.
- NYS will have up to 12 months to initiate, and 14 months to complete, renewals for all Medicaid, CHP, and Essential Plan enrollees.
- All Medicaid enrollees, including those in Medicaid fee-for-service or managed care, and CHP enrollees, will be sent renewal notices describing the action needed, if any, to renew their coverage.
- To manage the volume, enrollees will maintain their regular renewal “cycles” so that approximately one-twelfth of the population will renew each month.

Ex Parte (Administrative) Renewal

NYSOH

- Received approval in October 2022 to conduct ex parte (administrative) renewals utilizing IRS data across all programs to assist with the PHE unwind
- E14 Waiver requests –
 - SNAP
 - Zero income
 - Maintaining enrollment for individuals over 65 and dually eligible

WMS

- Auto renewal for non-MAGI with social security income
- E14 Waiver requests –
 - SNAP – MAGI and non-MAGI

Member Renewal Notices

- Members will be sent renewal notices describing any needed action to renew coverage and will maintain regular renewal “cycles.”
- Enrollees will have 60 days to respond to renewal notices to prevent loss of coverage.
- DOH will mail Medicaid renewal notices to individuals using the address currently on file. There may be a significant number of people who can't be reached because of outdated mailing addresses or phone numbers.

Provider Agency Communications

- OMH providers should encourage their clients to confirm accuracy of, or update, their contact information in the applicable Medicaid enrollment system.
 - Individuals enrolled through New York State of Health (NYSOH) can update contact information by calling NYSOH at 1-855-355-5777 or logging into their [NYSOH](#) account.
 - Individuals can also contact an [enrollment assistor](#).
 - Individuals enrolled in Medicaid through their county's Medicaid office or New York City's Human Resources Administration can call or visit their [local office](#) to update their contact information.
- Providers can use the [NY State of Health "Unwinding from the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency: A Communications Tool Kit to Keep New Yorkers Covered"](#) web page to help communicate with their clients enrolled in Medicaid or CHP.

Resources

- [NYS DOH Presentation - PHE and Continuous Coverage Unwind Plan](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about the Return of Renewals for New Yorkers Who Are Enrolled in Medicaid, Child Health Plus, or the Essential Plan through NY State of Health | NY State of Health](#)
- [PHE Tool Kit - FAQs for LDSS-HRA enrollees.pdf \(ny.gov\)](#)
- [UHF Roundtable Discussion: Surviving the Unwinding – New York’s Plan to Maintain Health Coverage When the Continuous Coverage Requirements End | NY State of Health](#)
- [Important Changes are Coming Soon to New York Medicaid Child Health Plus, and the Essential Plan](#)