Medicaid Redetermination 101

By April, states will begin the renewal process to reassess tens of millions of Medicaid members’ eligibility for the first time since March 2020. Whether through Medicaid or another form of health coverage, it’s critical for states to leverage all the resources and tools at their disposal to ensure Medicaid members remain covered and can access the care they need.

States should consider a thoughtful approach to processing renewals, using the full 14 months allowed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Proactively engaging with current Medicaid members can help ensure that those who are eligible remain covered, disruptions to care are limited, and ineligible individuals are informed of and enrolled in other available coverage options.

Managed care organizations (MCOs) can serve as an important resource during this time, helping states address these challenges and ensure members continue receiving the care they need. To learn more about strategies that states can utilize to create a smooth transition, read our Medicaid Redetermination Best Practices fact sheet.

Why It’s Important to Get Renewals Right

According to a report by the Urban Institute, approximately 18 million people could lose Medicaid coverage over the course of the 14-month renewal timeline. Urban Institute, 2022

✓ The report also indicates that there is a potential for 3.8 million individuals to become uninsured. However, this number will be substantially higher without a rigorous approach to renewals by the states.

✓ For example, an estimated 6.8 million individuals who are eligible for renewals could lose Medicaid coverage because of not completing their renewal form, never receiving a renewal form, or other administrative issues. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2022

✓ Gaps in coverage are detrimental to enrollees’ health, and can lead to disruptions in accessing preventative care, timely diagnosis, treatments, medication, and care coordination.

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64% of Medicaid beneficiaries are not aware of the looming renewal process. Urban Institute, 2022

16% of beneficiaries had heard “a little” about the renewals process Urban Institute, 2022

14% of beneficiaries heard “some” about the process and only 5% had heard “a lot.” Urban Institute, 2022

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