

What is the Medicaid Unwinding?



Background

The federal requirement that states keep people on Medicaid during the public health emergency (PHE) ends on March 31, 2023. Beginning on April 1, 2023, states will start to disenroll individuals who no longer qualify for Medicaid and process renewal applications for the remaining eligible individuals (if they have not previously sent in their renewal application). This process is referred to as Medicaid unwinding.

Medicaid unwinding does not mean that the PHE ends simultaneously – only that Congress delinked the Medicaid maintenance requirement from the PHE. In late January, the Biden administration announced the PHE would end on May 11, 2023.

Why is This Important?

The Medicaid unwinding will be the largest re-enrollment event in the state's history, and Medicaid families will need strong support from their community health centers.

Access to Care

About 32% of health center patients are Medicaid recipients and health center patients comprise about 12% of the state's total Medicaid population. Roughly, 2.7 million Medicaid enrollees are still eligible for Medicaid and will need to submit a renewal application. That means many of our health center patients risk losing their Medicaid coverage unnecessarily if they do not update their contact information and miss important notices from Texas Medicaid about actions they need to take to stay covered with Medicaid.

Financial Impact

Texas Medicaid reimburses health centers at their Prospective Payment System (PPS) rate. In 2021, 24% of total patient revenue for health centers was from Medicaid.

Ensuring that your eligible patients maintain their Medicaid coverage during the unwinding period provides maximum reimbursement but, more importantly, strengthens the continuity of care for our patients.

How is TACHC Supporting Health Centers?

To help raise awareness of the Medicaid unwinding, TACHC developed push cards and posters for every health center in the state in the summer of 2022 (when the PHE was slated to end in July 2022). The key messages were to inform Medicaid families about the importance of updating their contact information with Texas Medicaid and raise awareness about other coverage options available for pregnant and postpartum women who would lose their coverage during the unwinding. Many young adults have aged out of Medicaid and will need to know their options, too.

TACHC held a webinar for outreach and enrollment (OE) assisters and provided best practices for helping families update their contact information. OE staff can view the archived webinar [here](#) (the access passcode is: 7Y+1LGEy).

TACHC will also launch an aggressive social media and radio PSA campaign and is working with our state partners to ensure the message is shared in every corner of the state. TACHC will share the social media toolkit so that health centers may engage their communities on their social media platforms.

What Can Health Centers Do?

Support your Outreach and Enrollment departments and ensure they are fully staffed. Your OE staff can help Medicaid families update their contact information, explain notices they receive from Texas Medicaid, and help submit Medicaid renewals on time. For those no longer eligible for Medicaid, OE staff can help navigate other coverage options, such as low-cost health insurance through the Marketplace.

TACHC also strongly encourages health centers to become Community Partners if you still need to become one and sign up for LEVEL 3 access if you are. Level 3 allows

your outreach and enrollment staff to provide enhanced case management services to your patients and communities by enabling them to:

- **Update client contact information directly to Texas Medicaid**
- **Reset passwords for clients' Your Texas Benefits accounts**
- **Upgrade clients to full access to their Your Texas Benefits accounts and help them better manage their benefits**
- **Access limited reports to track applications and enrollments submitted by your health center.**

For more information about Medicaid unwinding please contact TACHC's Policy team or to become a Level 3 Community Partner, please contact TACHC OE ([Sonia Lara](#)).