

Review of COVID Changes (as of 5/13/20)

1. All Medicaid coverage is continued during the public health emergency (PHE) period, with the exception of a client's death, loss of state residency, citizenship status or client request.
2. We are allowing self-attestation to verify most eligibility factors, with the exception of citizenship/immigration status and disability. Electronic cross matches will be used to check income and resources. If we find that an eligibility factor makes an existing client ineligible, we will keep medical benefits open and review the case once the PHE is over. If we find that a client is ineligible during the application process, we can deny benefits.
3. If an eligibility review for medical benefits is not received timely, benefits will be extended for 90 days or until the end of the PHE. When processing reviews, if we find that a client is no longer eligible, benefits will still continue until the end of the PHE.
4. All HWD premiums for benefit months April, May and June will be waived.
5. If an HWD client is no longer working at the time of their eligibility review, we are extending their eligibility for 90 days.
6. All HWD past-due premiums are being waived.
7. We will not increase the client's portion of their cost of care (aka participation) during the PHE. Changes in income, resources and expenses should still be reported and we will decrease participation if needed, but will not increase it until the end of the PHE. We can still start participation for new LTC clients or when a client switches to a setting that requires new or increased participation.
8. For Medicaid purposes, the \$1200 stimulus checks are excluded as income in the month received and will be excluded as a resource for 12 months. It will not be counted towards participation.
9. The extra \$600 per week in federal unemployment compensation is excluded from Medicaid.
10. Regular unemployment compensation is currently counted as unearned income for Medicaid.
11. We don't know yet if the PHE declaration will be extended beyond July, but CMS indicates we need to extend eligibility flexibilities through the end of the quarter in which the PHE ends.

Cash & Food

12. All unemployment compensation is counted toward cash and food eligibility, including the extra federal payment of \$600 per week.
13. Supplemental food assistance payments have been issued for March, April and May and will likely be issued for June. Supplemental payments bring each assistance unit up to the maximum allotment.
14. Cash and food certification periods have been extended until November. June review letters have been suppressed, but any eligibility reviews received between now and October will be treated as a change in circumstance. All changes may potentially impact cash and food eligibility.