



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



DATE: January 10, 2023

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: 23-02

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIASONS

SUBJECT: Updated Guidance for Counties on Resuming Medi-Cal Redeterminations
(REF: MEDIL 20-25, ACWDL 21-16, ACWDL 22-18, MEDIL 22-20E)

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) is to inform counties of updated federal legislation that provides an end date to the continuous coverage requirement enacted as a result of the the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) federal Public Health Emergency (PHE).

Background

During the federal COVID-19 PHE, DHCS used various program flexibilities to respond to the crisis and provide continuous access to care for millions of Californians. As a result of Governor Gavin Newsom's March 4, 2020 State of Emergency declaration, and the President's subsequent federal declaration on March 13, 2020, DHCS released policy guidance through multiple MEDILs and All County Welfare Director's Letters (ACWDLs) on modifying case processing during the federal COVID-19 PHE. Additionally, the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) (FFCRA), authorized enhanced federal funding for Medicaid programs ("Medi-Cal" in California) conditioned upon Maintenance of Eligibility requirements that prohibit disenrollment in most circumstances. Under this "continuous coverage" requirement, states were required to maintain enrollment of nearly all Medicaid enrollees through the end of the month in which the PHE ends.

On December 29, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 which delinked the continuous coverage requirement from the PHE. With the passage of the bill, the continuous coverage requirements will end on March 31, 2023.

Effective with the release of this MEDIL, the 12-month (plus two months to complete renewal activities) period to resume normal operations will be referred to as the Continuous Coverage Unwinding. Any previous guidance by DHCS that references the COVID-19 PHE Unwinding should be applied to the Continuous Coverage Unwinding.

Continuous Coverage Unwinding

Effective April 1, 2023 the Continuous Coverage Unwinding will begin and counties shall follow the policy guidance outlined in ACWDL [22-18](#) regarding the unwinding process and resumption of redeterminations. Counties are to begin renewal activities on April 1, 2023 for beneficiaries with a June 2023 renewal date. The first Medi-Cal discontinuances should not occur before July 1, 2023. A detailed sequencing of annual renewal processing during the Continuous Coverage Unwinding is included in the [Medi-Cal Continuous Coverage Operational Unwinding Plan](#).

To ensure continuous and maximum coverage during the COVID-19 PHE and throughout the unwinding of the continuous coverage requirements, DHCS applied for Social Security Act Section 1902(e)(14)(A) and Section 1135(b) waivers. Some of the waiver flexibilities may continue to align to the COVID-19 PHE end date. DHCS will be issuing future guidance outlining which provisions will continue throughout the duration of the COVID-19 PHE.

County Support Calls

In order to support counties in the unwinding process, DHCS will host weekly technical support calls for counties that will begin in February 2023. The purpose of the support calls is provide counties with regular and consistent updates related to the Continuous Coverage Unwinding and allow a forum for counties to ask general (non-case specific) questions. DHCS will be conducting a kick off call in late January 2023 to overview the first key activities in the unwinding and walkthrough the support call format. Additional information regarding the support calls will be provided by DHCS in the near future.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Kathryn Floto via email at Kathryn.Floto@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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Health Care Benefits and Eligibility