

Bulletin Number: MSA 20-19

Distribution: Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) Holders

Issued: April 6, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Response: Suspending all Medicaid Closures

Effective: Immediately

Programs Affected: Medicaid, MIChild

Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and State recommendations, social distancing is encouraged to slow the spread of COVID-19 and thus preserve the health system capacity for the duration of this pandemic. As a result of the federal emergency health declaration, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is suspending program coverage closures for all Medicaid programs beginning March 16, 2020 and will be in effect through the month of April 2020 or until the first of the month following the termination of the Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency Order (2020-04, COVID-19), whichever is later. Medicaid coverage will only be closed if the individual moves out of state, requests that their benefits close, or they become deceased.

This temporary suspension of closures applies to Medicaid, MIChild, Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP), and individuals who have active coverage through a met deductible (i.e., spend down). Individuals who meet their deductible during the declared health emergency period will remain open until the end of the health emergency. Temporary closure restrictions do not apply to the MOMS program as this is not a Medicaid group. While closures will not take place except for the reasons stated above, individuals may (in limited cases) move to other Medicaid groups. These individuals will not see a decrease in their benefit amount and their case will stay open during the health emergency. These temporary policy changes offer flexibility for providers to meet the needs of beneficiaries through alternative means while protecting the health and welfare of both parties.

Public Comment

The public comment portion of the policy promulgation process is being conducted concurrently with the implementation of the change noted in this bulletin. Any interested party wishing to comment on the change may do so by submitting comments to Kayla Lowers, Policy Specialist, via e-mail at:

E-mail: LowersK@michigan.gov

Please include "COVID-19 Response: Suspending all Medicaid Closures" in the subject line.

Comments received will be considered for revisions to the change implemented by this bulletin.

Manual Maintenance

Information is time-limited and will not be incorporated into any policy or procedure manuals.

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mailed to ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, NPI number, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Massey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Massey, Director
Medical Services Administration