

Continuous Eligibility (CE) Updates

Presented by: Melissa Torres-Murillo



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Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing



Our Mission:

Improving health care equity, access and outcomes for the people we serve while saving Coloradans money on health care and driving value for Colorado.



What We Do

The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing administers Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program), Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) and other health care programs for Coloradans who qualify.



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Purpose

The purpose is to provide an overview of continuous eligibility and eligibility updates that are projected for change based on recent federal policy guidance.



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Federal Policy

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued State Health Official (SHO) Letter #23-004 released in September 2023.
 - Regarding Section 5112 Requirement for all States to Provide Continuous Eligibility to Children in Medicaid and CHIP under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.
 - All states need to be in compliance with CE policies effective January 1, 2024.



Continuous Eligibility



- Continuous eligibility (CE) is a policy that ensures eligible children under the age of 19 have Medicaid or CHP+ coverage for a period of up to 12 months, regardless of changes in their circumstances, with certain exceptions.
- CE protects families and children from coverage gaps. Studies have also shown that CE improves access to care, continuity of coverage, and the uninsured rate for children.
- CE's goal is to provide consistent access to care for eligible individuals so they have improved health outcomes.



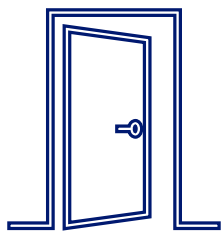
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Continuous Eligibility Updates

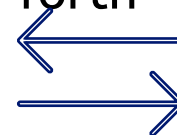
- CMS's guidance requires a change to our policy and system.
- CHP+ eligible children (<19 y/o) who had reported a decrease in income will now move from CHP to Medicaid *automatically* without needing to opt out.
- Children transitioning from CHP+ to Medicaid will receive a new 12-month eligibility period, and we will reset their renewal period upon enrollment in Medicaid.
- Because we don't *automatically* move children from CHP+ to Medicaid today, we created a notice that gives 10 days noticing, advising of the termination of CHP+ benefits and approval for Medicaid.
- **This change will go live March 8, 2025**





Opting In and Out

- Can members move back to CHP+ after being enrolled into Medicaid?
 - Members can opt out of any program at any time, but this will not guarantee that they will be placed back into their previous Medical Assistance Program.
 - Movement back into their previous program will be dependent on if they have a change in income, such as an increase that will place them back into CHP+, but members need to opt out of Medicaid to be moved.
 - Members who have fluctuating income and who opt in/out of their programs may experience flopping back and forth (churn).



Other Programs Impacted

- The Family Planning (FP) aid code will be updated to allow children to receive the 12-month CE period
 - Members in the Family Planning (FP) aid code who become Incarcerated will be suspended (they are not eligible for limited incarceration benefits) until they are released.
 - The 12 months CE period, will be reinstated for the remainder of that CE period if released within the CE period
- Children in all other Medical Assistance (MA) Programs who are released from incarceration within their initial CE period will be placed back into their last MA program.

Member Impact



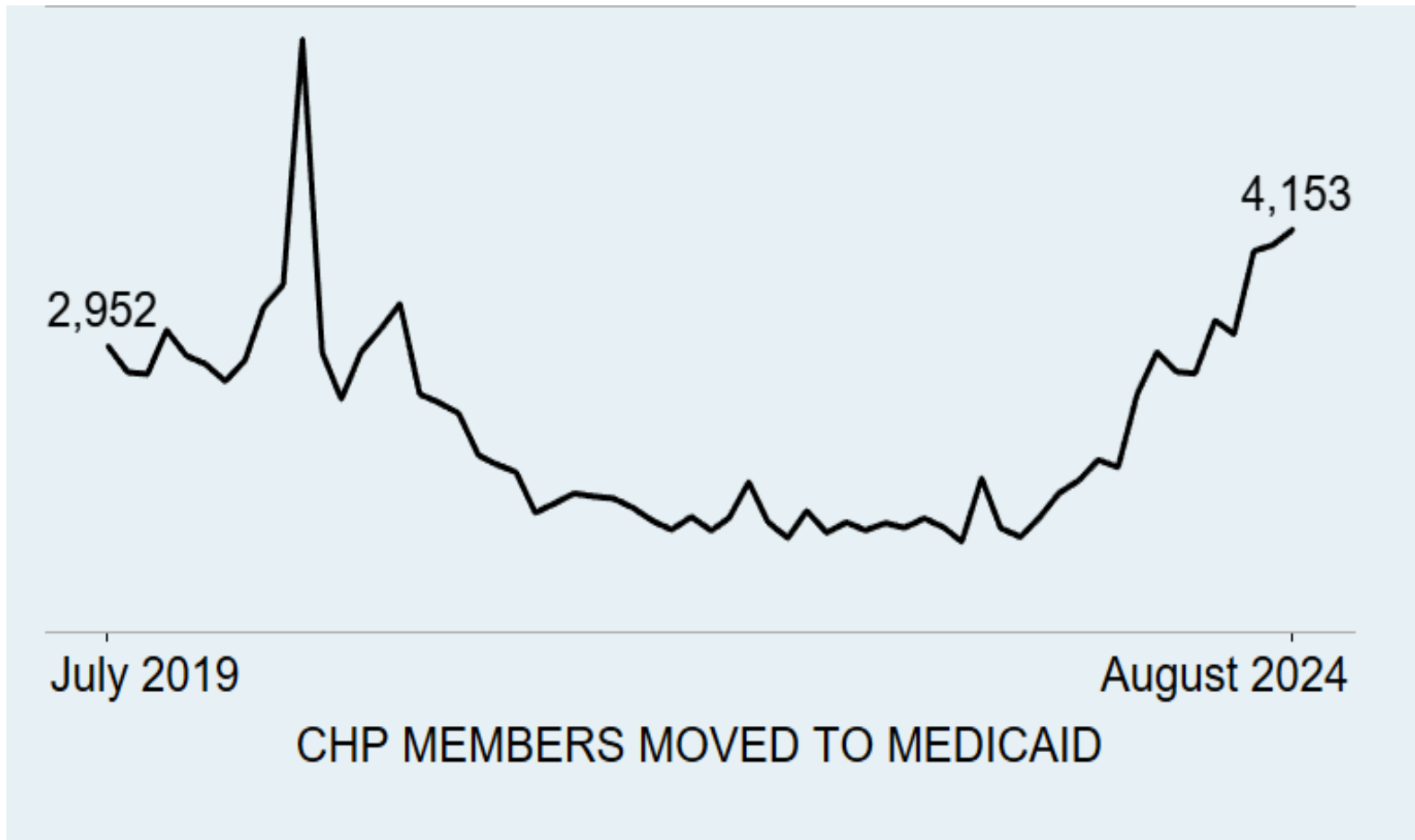
- To avoid an interruption in member services, members will need to verify if their current CHP+ provider accepts Health First Colorado.
- The Notice of Action (NOA) directs the member to confirm that their current provider accepts Medicaid and, if not, how to find a new provider.
- Health First Colorado welcome letter is sent to the member by the enrollment broker.



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How many members may be impacted by this change?





Questions?



Contact Information

Email: hcpf_membercomplaints@state.co.us



Thank you!



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