



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Eligibility

October 2019

Determining Eligibility

The Department of Human/Social Services for the county where the member resides helps to establish eligibility for Health First Colorado and Child Health Plans *Plus* (CHP+). Individuals may apply online, in person, by mail, or by phone. Visit [Health First Colorado](#) for more information on how to apply.

Delayed/Retroactive Eligibility

A member's eligibility may be made retroactive up to three months prior to the month in which they have applied for benefits. Charges for services are the member's responsibility until eligibility is established. Claims are denied if the member's eligibility status is not available through eligibility verification methods.

Dual Eligibility

Members with coverage by Medicare and Health First Colorado are referred to as Medicare-Medicaid enrollees. Providers are reminded that Health First Colorado is always the payer of last resort; therefore, services for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees must be billed first to Medicare. Providers must be able to show evidence that claims for members with dual eligibility, where appropriate, have been denied by Medicare prior to submission to the Colorado Medical Assistance Program. Per the Provider Participation Agreement, this evidence must be retained for six years following the Medicare denial. The Colorado Medical Assistance Program requires that the Medicare Standard Paper Remit (SPR) accompany any paper claims submitted for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees.

Please call the Provider Services Call Center at 1 (844) 235-2387 (toll-free) 7am - 5pm Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, and 10am - 5pm Wednesday and Friday (MST). with questions.

Presumptive Eligibility (PE)

Presumptive Eligibility (PE) allows children age 18 and under and pregnant women to be enrolled in either Health First Colorado or CHP+ as presumptively eligible. Health First Colorado PE for children includes coverage of all Health First Colorado covered services. However, Health First Colorado PE for pregnant women only covers outpatient services.

Health First Colorado PE for pregnant women includes Outpatient Services and Prenatal Care, but does **not** include Inpatient (hospital) Care or Labor and Delivery.

Health First Colorado PE for children includes full Health First Colorado benefits, and is **not** limited to:

Our mission is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources.

www.colorado.gov/hcpf



Doctor visits
Hospitalization
Mental health services
Glasses and hearing aids
Prescriptions
Prenatal
Dental

Old Age Pension Health Care Program

The Old Age Pension Health Care Program provides care for Colorado old age pensioners with limited incomes who do not qualify for Health First Colorado.

Medicare Savings Programs

Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) can help individuals eligible for Medicare, who have limited income and resources, pay for some or all of their Medicare premiums, and may also pay their Medicare deductibles and co-insurance.

Newborns

A baby born to a woman covered by Health First Colorado at the time of the baby's birth is guaranteed coverage through the baby's first birthday.

Non-Citizens

Many non-citizens with qualifying immigration statuses can be eligible for full benefits through Health First Colorado. The different types of qualifying immigration statuses are extensive, especially for children and pregnant women.

Immigration status is just one factor of eligibility for Health First Colorado. Individuals who wish to apply for assistance must not be prescreened. Individuals are encouraged to apply to determine if they qualify. All individuals must be allowed to apply for Health First Colorado without delay and are entitled to a full eligibility determination.

Individuals who do not have a qualifying immigration status may be eligible for benefits that cover services necessary to treat emergency conditions, including labor and delivery.

For additional information on eligibility, please visit the [Health First Colorado website](https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf).

