



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Alister F. Martin, MD, MPP
Commissioner

New Medicaid Eligibility Requirements for Provider Awareness

July 27, 2026

Dear Colleague,

Beginning January 2027, certain New York City Medicaid beneficiaries will need to comply with new community engagement requirements imposed by changes to federal law—often referred to as **Medicaid work requirements**. As a healthcare provider, understanding these new rules is critical so that you can help the individuals you care for stay covered.

The new work requirements rules threaten disruption to insurance coverage and, therefore, to health-care access among people you treat. **The scale of the threat is immense: the population at risk of Medicaid termination likely numbers in the hundreds of thousands across the city.** The burden of coverage loss is likely to fall disproportionately on Black and Latinx residents. The NYC Health Department is here to equip you with information and resources to support the individuals in your care and community. Our health insurance assistors are available to answer questions and provide support to meet new requirements and stay covered. **Speak to an assistor by calling 347-665-0214, or submit a [Health Insurance Inquiry Form](#).**

What will the new rules require?

Medicaid beneficiaries ages 19 to 64 will be required to either comply with the work requirements or fit within one of the exemption categories.

- To comply, individuals must provide documentation of work, a work training program, community service, or school at least 80 hours per month, or be in a household with income of \$580 per month.
- To be exempt, individuals must fit within exemption categories, including:
 - Pregnant or postpartum within 12 months of birth;
 - Disability, as defined for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility;
 - Medically frail, including special medical needs, substance use disorder, and certain mental health conditions, posing a significant impairment to their ability to work;
 - Participating in a drug or alcohol use treatment program;
 - Parent, guardian, or caregiver of a child under age 14 or a disabled individual;
 - Enrolled in SNAP (food stamps) or TANF (cash assistance);
 - Released from jail or prison in the last 90 days;
 - Receiving inpatient services in a hospital, nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or other services of similar acuity; or

- Other (see a full list on the New York State of Health's "Stay Covered" webpage at info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/stay-covered).

These requirements will go into effect starting as early as January 2027. Some beneficiaries may be automatically exempted; others may be required to submit documentation proving their compliance or exemption, including certifications completed by you and your staff. In 2027, there will be opportunities for applicants to self-attest about certain exemptions, including the "medically frail" exemption—but self-attestations will be restricted in 2028 and beyond. In addition, many Medicaid beneficiaries will be required to renew every 6 months, rather than every 12 months.

Next month, Medicaid beneficiaries will begin receiving official notice from the State Health Department about these upcoming rules. When this news reaches individuals in your care, many—especially those with chronic illness, mental health conditions, and other serious conditions—may experience fear and anxiety about their ability to remain insured and maintain access to care. When these rules take effect starting in January 2027, individuals in your care may experience significant difficulty navigating these requirements and will be at risk of having their Medicaid coverage terminated.

However, you can help mitigate these complications.

What can you do now?

- Educate Medicaid-beneficiary individuals in your care about these upcoming changes (See below for helpful information to share);
- Monitor for upcoming renewals and terminations of Medicaid for individuals in your care—for instance, by having staff check coverage status and renewal timing at each appointment;
- Refer individuals to NYC Health Department health insurance assistors for help navigating their compliance and exemption options; and
- Stay current with updates and resources from the NYC Health Department via our website at www.nyc.gov/health, and from the New York State of Health's "Stay Covered" webpage at info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/stay-covered.

In addition, you can join our upcoming webinar to learn more. **The NYC Health Department will be hosting a webinar to share information with providers about the upcoming changes.** Visit the "Providers" section of our webpage to get information as it becomes available, at www.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/reporting-and-services-main.page.

Sincerely,



Alister Martin, MD, MPP
Commissioner of Health
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Information to share with Medicaid-beneficiary individuals in your care

1. **Keep your contact info updated.** Make sure your contact information is up to date in your New York State of Health account. If you do not know how to access this, a NYC Health Department assistor can help you.
2. **Look for official messages.** Do not ignore any official communications from the New York State of Health Marketplace, as they may contain important information on how to keep your coverage.
3. **Pay special attention to renewal notices.** You don't have to take action until it is time to renew your coverage. For example, if you usually renew your coverage in June, you may not receive detailed guidance until around April.
4. **Consider sharing earnings info.** The State Health Department is partnering with a company called Truv to access payroll data that will allow them to more easily verify compliance with Medicaid work requirements without individuals having to take additional steps. This is not required. If you are comfortable, consider opting in when you are given the option to do so.
5. **Continue to get care.** Unless you hear that your coverage has been terminated, your care will still be covered. You should continue to see your healthcare provider for needed care.
6. **Know where to get help.** If you receive a notice of noncompliance or need help with your Medicaid renewal, call the NYC Health Department assistors at 347-665-0214 or request a callback by completing this form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7BB62M3>.
7. **Stay healthy even if terminated.** Even if you lose your Medicaid coverage, there are options for affordable health care in New York City for uninsured residents, regardless of your immigration status or ability to pay. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/ochia and click on "Coverage & Care."