Provider enrollment and revalidation changes during the COVID-19 emergency

On March 6, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf issued an emergency disaster declaration in response to the presence of the COVID-19 virus in Pennsylvania. The COVID-19 outbreak was declared a national emergency under the Stafford Act on March 13, 2020, and a nationwide public health emergency on January 31, 2020 (retroactive to January 27, 2020). Consistent with Section 1 of the President’s March 13, 2020, national emergency declaration, the Department of Human Services requested flexibilities under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act on March 24, 2020.

The flexibilities requested were:

- Waive payment of application fee to temporarily enroll a provider
- Waive criminal background checks associated with temporarily enrolling providers
- Waive site visits to temporarily enroll a provider
- Permit providers located out-of-state/territory to provide care to an emergency State’s Medicaid enrollee and be reimbursed for that service
- Postpone revalidation deadlines for providers
- Waive requirements for physicians and other health care professionals be licensed in the state in which they are providing services, so long as they have equivalent licensing in another state
- Allow non-enrolled providers to order, refer and prescribe MA covered services prior to enrollment with Medicaid program.

Consequently, due to the disaster declaration the Department:

- Will not close provider service locations in PROMISe due to revalidation. All providers having a revalidation date during the emergency disaster declaration will remain active in PROMISe. However, please note that if the provider has not revalidated OR submitted a revalidation application, the provider’s service locations will close in PROMISe the day the emergency disaster declaration ends. For more information regarding provider revalidation, please see Medical Assistance Bulletin 99-14-06.
- Is suspending the requirement that the ordering, referring, attending or prescribing provider must be enrolled in PROMISe for the claim to be paid. For more information about this requirement, please see Medical Assistance Bulletin 99-16-07.
• Suspending the denial of claims due to the rendering provider’s service location not being enrolled in PROMISe described in Medical Assistance Bulletin 99-18-11.

• Backdating out-of-state provider enrollments to the date they provided services in Pennsylvania.

• Enrolling providers without paying an application fee, which was described in Medical Assistance Bulletin 01-16-14.

• Enrolling providers assigned to the moderate categorical risk level temporarily without a site visit. The site visit will be conducted at a date after the provider has been enrolled. For more information regarding site visits please see Medical Assistance Bulletin 99-16-13.

• Enrolling providers assigned to the high categorical risk level temporarily without requiring criminal background checks and a site visit. For more information regarding the high categorical risk level screenings please see Medical Assistance Bulletin 99-17-03. The criminal background checks and the site visit will be required once the provider has enrolled.

Providers should continue to check the Department of Human Service’s COVID-19 website and the Department of Health’s website for updates.

For provider enrollment, revalidation, enrollment fee, site visit or criminal background check questions please contact 1-800-537-8862, option 2, option 4, option 2.

For question regarding claim payments please contact 1-800-537-8862, option 2, option 6, option 1.

Thank you for your service to our MA recipients.
We value your participation.
Check the Department’s website often at: www.dhs.pa.gov.