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DCH Releases Medicaid Redetermination Data for April 2024 and Unwinding-to-Date

ATLANTA (June 24, 2024) – In Georgia’s 12th month of the federally mandated Medicaid redetermination process, the state continues using implemented improvements to minimize the number of procedural terminations and maximize the number of ex parte renewals. As Georgia hits the one-year mark, the regular renewal process is now active. As a result, unwinding-related and “regular” renewals (e.g., the first renewal for new beneficiaries and the second renewal after the end of the Medicaid continuous enrollment condition) will occur at the same time. Starting in the April 2024 reporting period, renewal data will no longer reflect only work done as part of unwinding process and will begin to reflect regular renewal processing as well, consistent with guidance provided by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The state will share final cumulative data from the complete post-PHE redetermination effort when reporting is completed.

A breakdown of the April data is as follows:

- In April 2024, 333,769 Georgians with Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids® were due for renewal.
- At the close of the month, 241,667 (72%) of these Georgians were renewed for Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids® coverage, while 86,642 (26%) were found ineligible (for example, due to changed circumstances or lack of response to state requests for information).
- 5,460 (2%) individuals with April renewals remain pending and will retain coverage while their eligibility is determined.

Ex Parte Renewals: In April, the State was able to automatically renew 205,804 individuals through the CMS approved ex parte process of using currently available eligibility data, including data from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Guidance for Members: The ex parte process requires no action from members, and these members did not receive a renewal packet. Members who receive ex parte renewal will have their coverage renewed for another year. Members who are no longer eligible for SNAP or TANF or who cannot be renewed through the ex parte process will go through redetermination manually. Members who have been denied SNAP or TANF benefits should not assume that they are no longer eligible for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids® and should complete redetermination paperwork requests.

Pre-Populated Form Renewals: As of the end of April, 35,863 individuals had their coverage renewed via form.

With the exception of members who were auto renewed through the ex-parte process, the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) sent all Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids® members a renewal notice via mail and/or email based on an individual’s preference about 45 days before their redetermination deadline. Individuals also received a reminder notice 15 days before their redetermination deadline. In addition, Georgia has reached out to individuals through other methods, including:

- SMS text messages at 30 and 10 days before their redetermination deadline and reminders via phone calls.
- Care Management Organizations (CMOs) partnering with the State to conduct additional member outreach.
- Any individual who had their renewal packet returned to the State due to an invalid address is held as pending until additional outreach can be completed.

Guidance for Members: Members who were late in turning in their paperwork have up to 90 days to submit their materials to re-start the redetermination process and potentially retain their coverage. After 90 days, members who believe they are still eligible for coverage have to re-apply for Medicaid.

Terminations of Coverage: In April 2024, 43,439 individuals were determined ineligible for Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids based on their response to the State’s request for additional data and were terminated from coverage. 43,203 individuals were procedurally terminated. Members whose income exceeds state eligibility thresholds and who do not have employer-sponsored healthcare may be eligible for the new [Pathways to Coverage™](#) program or they can explore [Georgia Access](#), a new state-based exchange on the federal platform.

At the start of the pandemic, Georgia’s unemployment rate rose to a high of 12.4% in April 2020. In March 2024, Georgia’s unemployment rate was 3.1%, indicating a strong labor market with more Georgians eligible for employer health insurance plans. Between May 2023– January 2024, 325,000 former Georgia Medicaid/CHIP members have enrolled in marketplace plans.¹

Background on Redetermination: The Medicaid redetermination process is the result of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 which requires all states to resume annual Medicaid eligibility checks after a three-year pause during the pandemic. States were required to begin these “redeterminations” at least by April 2023 and finish the process by May 2024, reporting on their progress monthly to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. To further transparency in its reporting, Georgia has created a monthly [dashboard](#) of required CMS data.

Medicaid coverage continues while renewals are processed, even if processing continues beyond the renewal date. Members can submit updated proof of eligibility up to 90 days after their termination date. If they are determined eligible, their coverage will be retroactively reinstated. Members who feel they have been incorrectly denied coverage—due to incorrect information or for another reason—can appeal a denial up to 30 days after they receive their redetermination decision and elect to retain their coverage during the appeals process.

Since September 2022, DCH, DHS, other state agencies, and community partners have been working to educate and mobilize Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids® members through a statewide public information campaign. The “Stay Informed. Stay Covered.” campaign includes TV and radio ads in English and Spanish, social media outreach, digital advertising, bus shelter signage, billboards, media outreach, regular partner briefings, informational videos, and community education resources in seven languages.

More information on Medicaid redetermination for members, their loved ones, and partners and providers can be found on the State’s official microsite for the campaign [staycovered.ga.gov](#).

DCH and DHS encourage Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids® members to visit [gateway.ga.gov](#) to find their redetermination date as soon as possible and to respond to requests for information from official communications from the State in a timely manner. Members can make sure they can be reached with information about their Medicaid coverage by checking or updating their contact information through one of three ways:

1. Online at Georgia DHS’ benefits website: [gateway.ga.gov](#)
2. In person at their local DFCS office: [dfcs.georgia.gov/locations](#)
3. By phone at 1-877-GA-DHS-GO (1-877-423-4746) or 711 for the hearing impaired

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¹ [HealthCare.gov Marketplace Medicaid Unwinding Report](#). Individuals are Marketplace consumers who submitted a HealthCare.gov application after March 2023 and can be linked to an enrollment record that shows Medicaid or CHIP enrollment between March 2023 and the latest reporting month.