

For Immediate Release

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DCH Releases Medicaid Redetermination Data for July and Unwinding-to-Date

ATLANTA (August 11, 2023) – A breakdown of redetermination data as a result of the ongoing, federally required and initiated unwinding process is as follows:

- In June, Georgia initiated eligibility checks for 200,943 Georgians with Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids® with renewals due at the end of July.
- At the close of the month, 64,964 of these Georgians were renewed for Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids® coverage.
- Approximately 59,854 individuals with July renewals remain pending and will retain coverage while their eligibility is determined.
- 76,125 individuals were found ineligible (due to changed circumstances 33or lack of response to multiple state requests for information and significant marketing efforts)

Ex Parte Renewals: In June and July, the State was able to automatically renew 45,813 individuals through the 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 for 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: Georgia sent redetermination packets to more than 155,000 members in June. These individuals had until the end of July to provide the State with updated information to retain their coverage. As of July 31, more than 74,500 completed packets were returned to the State, which is a 50% increase over returned packets for June renewals.

With the exception of members who are auto-renewed through the ex-parte process, the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) sends 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 receive a reminder notice 15 days before their redetermination deadline. In addition, Georgia is reaching out to individuals through other methods, including:

- SMS text messages at 30 and 10 days before their redetermination deadline and via phone calls.
- Care Management Organizations (CMOs) are partnering with the State to conduct additional member outreach.
- Finally, 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 are 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 will have to re-apply for Medicaid.

Procedural Terminations of Coverage: Of the member cases processed in July, 68,495 individuals were procedurally terminated. However, the State has data that nearly 23,000 of the individuals who were procedurally terminated likely would no longer have been eligible due to several factors, including: increased income*, changed household composition, aging out of coverage, and moving out of state.

Guidance for Members: If a member has the option for employer-sponsored healthcare coverage, they are no longer eligible for Medicaid coverage. Members whose income exceeds state eligibility thresholds and who do not have employer-sponsored healthcare can explore the new [Pathways to Coverage™](#) options available or visit the marketplace.

*At the start of the pandemic, Georgia's unemployment rate rose to a high of 12.4% in April 2020. In June 2023, Georgia's unemployment rate was 3.2%, indicating a strong labor market with more Georgians eligible for employer health insurance plans, and therefore ineligible for Medicaid.

Unwinding To Date: Since the beginning of the Medicaid redetermination process in April 2023, more than 137,004 Georgians have had their Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids® coverage renewed. This does not include the over 13,000 individuals renewed via ex parte prior to their renewal windows or individuals with pending cases approved after the end of a renewal month. Over 105,000 individuals have pending decisions and will retain coverage while their eligibility is determined.

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 major 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 or 711 for the hearing impaired

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