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## **DCH Releases Medicaid Redetermination Data for November and Unwinding-to-Date**

**ATLANTA** (December 19, 2023) – In Georgia’s seventh 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. Recently, the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) and the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) jointly announced they have secured more than \$54 million through the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget to support ongoing Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids® redetermination processing as part of a new, short-term “surge” effort. This funding will support the engagement of contracted staffing, process improvement, and financial support to state eligibility workers. For more details on this announcement, read the [press release](#).

A breakdown of the November redetermination data is as follows:

- In October, Georgia initiated eligibility checks for 159,004 Georgians with Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids® with renewals due at the end of November.
- At the close of the month, 87,708 (55%) of these Georgians were renewed for Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids® coverage, while 57,516 (36%) were found ineligible (for example, due to changed circumstances or lack of response to state requests for information).
- 13,780 (9%) individuals with November renewals remain pending and will retain coverage while their eligibility is determined.

**Ex Parte Renewals:** In October and November, the State was able to automatically renew 64,659 (41%) 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. This is a notable increase in the ex parte rate from prior months. Not included in the CMS report are the nearly 12,000 individuals with October renewal deadlines who were successfully renewed in prior months, which brings the total number of ex parte renewals to 76,490 (45%).

*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 notices to over 85,000 members in October. These individuals had until the end of November to provide the State with updated information to retain their coverage. As of November, more than 35,000 completed forms were returned to the State.

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 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 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.

**Terminations of Coverage:** 10,437 individuals (7% of all individuals with November renewal deadlines and 18% of all terminations) 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. 47,079 individuals were procedurally terminated. This accounts for 30% of all individuals with November renewal deadlines and 82% of all terminations. Additionally, the State has data that over 14,000 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:* 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 July 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, the State has renewed coverage for nearly 521,000 individuals.

- Georgia reported to CMS nearly 398,000 Georgians that have had their Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids® coverage renewed.
- However, the CMS reports do not include the additional approximately 123,000 individuals who have retained coverage:
  - 66,000 individuals renewed via the ex parte process prior to their renewal windows,
  - 44,000 individuals with pending cases approved after the end of a renewal month, and
  - 13,000 individuals who submitted their renewal within the 90-day reconsideration window and were subsequently renewed.

**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](https://staycovered.ga.gov).

DCH and DHS encourage Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids® members to visit [gateway.ga.gov](https://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](https://gateway.ga.gov)
2. In person at their local DFCS office: [dfcs.georgia.gov/locations](https://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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