



Member News Alert - May 2023

Unwinding the Public Health Emergency

Important Updates about MaineCare

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government declared a Public Health Emergency (PHE) and relaxed certain requirements to ensure Medicaid (known as MaineCare) members could continue to access healthcare services. The federal government declared that the PHE would end (also known as unwinding) on May 11, 2023.

Starting May 12, 2023, some billing flexibilities and how MaineCare members access health care services reverted back to how they were administered prior to the declaration of the PHE.

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services is working to update its COVID-19 and End of PHE [web page](#) with current information concerning the end of the PHE and will send notifications as updates are made.

Following are links to recently added or updated documents:

- [End of PHE Copayment Guidance \(PDF\) - May 11, 2023](#)
- [COVID-19 Update for Pharmacies \(PDF\) - May 11, 2023](#)
- [MaineCare Standing Order for COVID-19 At-Home Tests and Collection Kits \(PDF\) - Updated May 5, 2023](#)

To support MaineCare providers through this transitional period, MaineCare developed a [provider-only e-mail box](#) to submit questions related to the end of the PHE.

Resources for MaineCare Members

MaineCare members must know what to expect and what to do to keep their health coverage. Most will either remain eligible for MaineCare or qualify for financial assistance that will help them to buy affordable coverage through [CoverME.gov](#), Maine's Health Insurance Marketplace.

The resources below provide important tools to help you inform people with MaineCare about the steps they need to take to avoid losing coverage.

- [Changes to Medicaid Enrollment and Eligibility](#)
- [Administration for Community Living - Unwinding Resources](#)
- [SAMPLE - Annual Health Insurance Benefits Renewal Letter and Form](#)
- [Affordable Employer Coverage Tool - for Marketplace Subsidy Eligibility](#)
- [MaineCare Unwinding Toolkit](#)
- [Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Enrollment Unwinding – Toolkit](#)
- [Renew Your Medicaid or CHIP Coverage](#)
- [Hospital Free & Discounted Care](#)
- [Coverage for COVID-10 Tests Fact Sheet](#)
- [‘HHS Bridge Access Program For COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments’ to Maintain Access to COVID-19 Care for the Uninsured](#)
- [VA Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers](#)

Consumers for Affordable Health Care Hotline: 1-800-965-7476

As Maine's health coverage experts, Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAHC) is dedicated to helping Mainer's get covered. If you have questions about the application process for MaineCare programs, private insurance, you were wrongfully [denied](#) coverage, or you have a [story](#) to share, call us at **1-800-965-7476**. If you need help with prescriptions, dental care or other health services, we can point you in the right direction. We are not an insurance company or government agency but we do offer free assistance [navigating](#) complex systems and [trainings](#) to other professionals around the state.

**CoverME.gov launches special enrollment period
for Maine people transitioning from MaineCare**

Individuals losing eligibility for MaineCare can enroll in plans on CoverME.gov through July 31, 2024. [Read more.](#)

Learning Opportunity

Consumers for Affordable Health Care Webinar

Filling Health Coverage Gaps

Wednesday, May 31, 1:00-2:30pm

Join the [Consumers for Affordable Health Care](#) (CAHC) for a webinar exploring options when health coverage is not enough. [Register here.](#)
