

Health Care Reform Review Committee

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Medicaid and Healthy Steps



Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE)

- The Affordable Care Act requires Medicaid agencies to implement Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE).
- Allows hospitals to immediately receive a Medicaid eligibility determination for certain individuals who are likely to be eligible for Medicaid.
- Medicaid coverage is temporary, but allows immediate access to coverage for eligible individuals.
- Improves individuals' access to Medicaid and necessary services by providing another channel to apply for coverage.
- Ensures the hospital will be reimbursed for services provided, just as if the individual was enrolled in Medicaid through standard eligibility methods.

How Hospitals Can Participate in HPE

Hospital participation in HPE is optional.

- To make HPE determinations, a hospital must:
 - Be an enrolled Medicaid provider
 - Notify the Medicaid agency of its election to make HPE determinations by submitting a Qualified Entity Application, Responsibilities and Agreement
 - Ensure staff are certified to complete HPE applications
 - Assist applicants with completing and submitting the online HPE application
 - Provide applicants with the HPE determination notice
 - Inform applicants at the time of the HPE determination that they must file a Medicaid application in order to obtain Medicaid coverage beyond the HPE period

Application, Determination and Next Steps

- The hospital will assist applicants in applying for HPE through the online Self-Service Portal and Consolidated Eligibility System (SPACES).
- Upon submission of the application, SPACES will make an eligibility determination and display the decision and corresponding notice. Hospitals need to print the notice and provide a copy to the applicant.
- Applicants will need to present the notice received from the hospital if they seek services during the HPE eligibility period. The notice will have their Medicaid number and will be needed at each visit for services until a full determination has been made.

HPE Eligibility Criteria

- Individuals who do not currently receive Medicaid benefits and have not had an HPE period during the current calendar year.
- Individuals must:
 - Be a US citizen
 - Be a resident of North Dakota
 - Have income below the income eligibility guidelines
- Individuals cannot be required to provide proof/documentation of any HPE eligibility criteria.
- The hospital must accept self-attestation of income, US citizenship or immigration status, and North Dakota residency.

HPE Coverage Period

- The HPE coverage period begins with, and includes, the day on which the hospital makes the HPE determination.
- The HPE period ends with the last day of the month following the month in which the hospital makes the HPE determination, if the individual does not file a full application by that time.
- Individuals can only receive one HPE coverage period during a calendar year.
 - Exception: Pregnant Women are eligible to receive one HPE period per pregnancy.

HPE Implementation

- The Department will implement HPE in conjunction with the roll-out of the first phase of the new eligibility system (Self-Service Portal and Consolidated Eligibility System (SPACES)), which is scheduled for mid-December.
- The Department has been working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to have the necessary Medicaid state plan authority in place.
- Training for Hospitals is expected to be provided in early December.

