



Module 1

Suspension 101 & Enrollment

Office of Medicaid Eligibility and Policy (OMEP)
Medicaid Eligibility and Community Support (MECS)
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Background

What is Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) Suspension?

Suspension is the act of limiting full scope coverage while a person is incarcerated or institutionalized.

Suspension of Apple Health is the result of previous legislative outcomes and extensive stakeholder engagement.



Background

Substitute House Bill (HB)1290 (2005). Directed DSHS to expedite the enrollment or re-enrollment of eligible persons leaving state or local correction facilities.

Recommendations by the Adult Behavioral Health Taskforce (2014-2016). Over 100 individuals provided testimony, information or participated in stakeholder work groups which resulted in a recommendation to suspend Apple Health.

Substitute Senate Bill (SB) 6430. SB6430 directs HCA to suspend rather than terminate Apple Health coverage for those individuals who become incarcerated or institutionalized.

Suspension Overview

The purpose of suspension is to provide continuity of care for recipients of Apple Health during periods of incarceration or commitments in a state hospital by:

- Suspending, not terminating existing coverage
- Applying for health care coverage in suspended status
- Identifying and communicating behavioral health best practices to promote a smooth transition into the community

Suspension

As of July 2017 HCA suspends Apple Health coverage for individuals in correctional facilities.

Eligibility does not end but coverage is limited to inpatient hospitalizations lasting over 24 hours. This is a suspended benefit package.

Upon release, full scope coverage is reinstated without the need for action by the individual.

Suspended Status

| Correctional Type | Coverage |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| DOC Community Supervision/ Misdemeanor Probation | Full scope |
| DOC Work Release* | Full scope |
| City/County Jail Work Release* | Full scope or Limited (suspended) |
| IMD ** | Limited (suspended) |
| Halfway House | Full scope |
| Day Jail Reporting | Full scope |
| Work Crews | Limited (suspended) |
| Electronic Home Monitoring | Full scope |

* Refer to list of approved facilities

** Within certain age ranges

Benefits of Suspension

Medicaid statute still limits payment for services for individuals while in correctional institutions; however, Apple Health (Medicaid) coverage is crucial to ensuring a successful transition following incarceration.

Many justice-involved individuals have a high prevalence of long-untreated, chronic health care conditions, substance use abuse and mental health disorders.

Facilitating enrollment and supporting access to services after incarceration can make a difference in the health of this population

Why is Suspension Important?

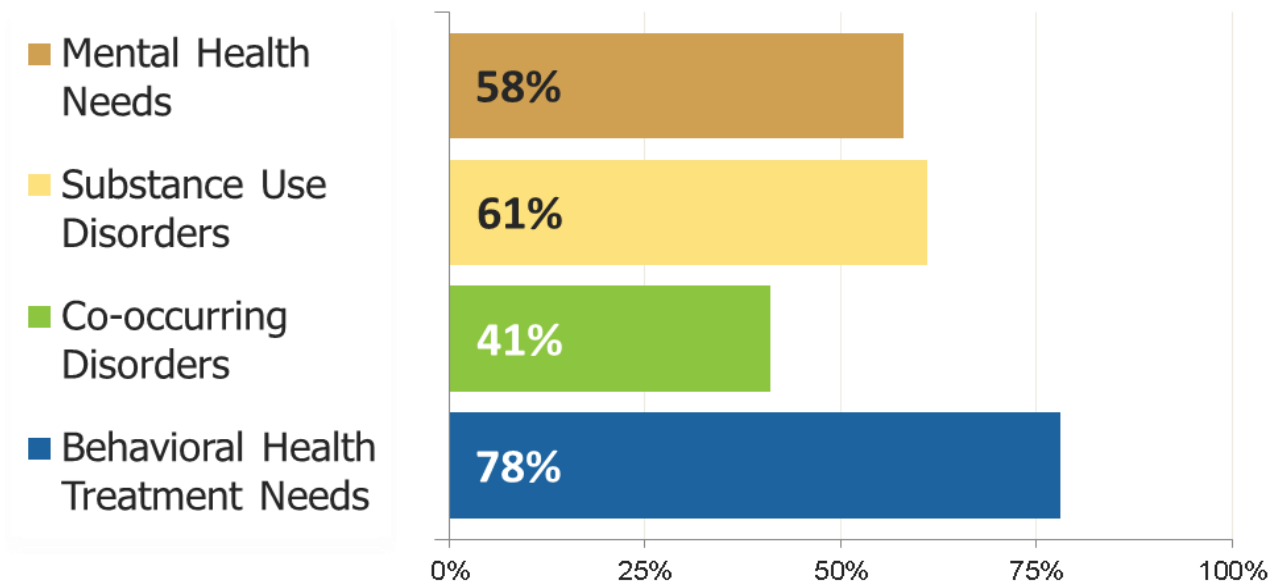
| Immediate Impacts of Incarceration | Long-term Impacts of Incarceration |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Suicide | Prolonged stress & physical implications |
| Depression | Exposure to infectious diseases |
| Difficulty coping | Affects on marriage & unemployment |

Incarceration, Health and Racial Disparities in Health, Law & Society Review Vol 42, Number 2, (2008)

Why is Suspension Important?

Characteristics of Washington Adult Jail Inmates:

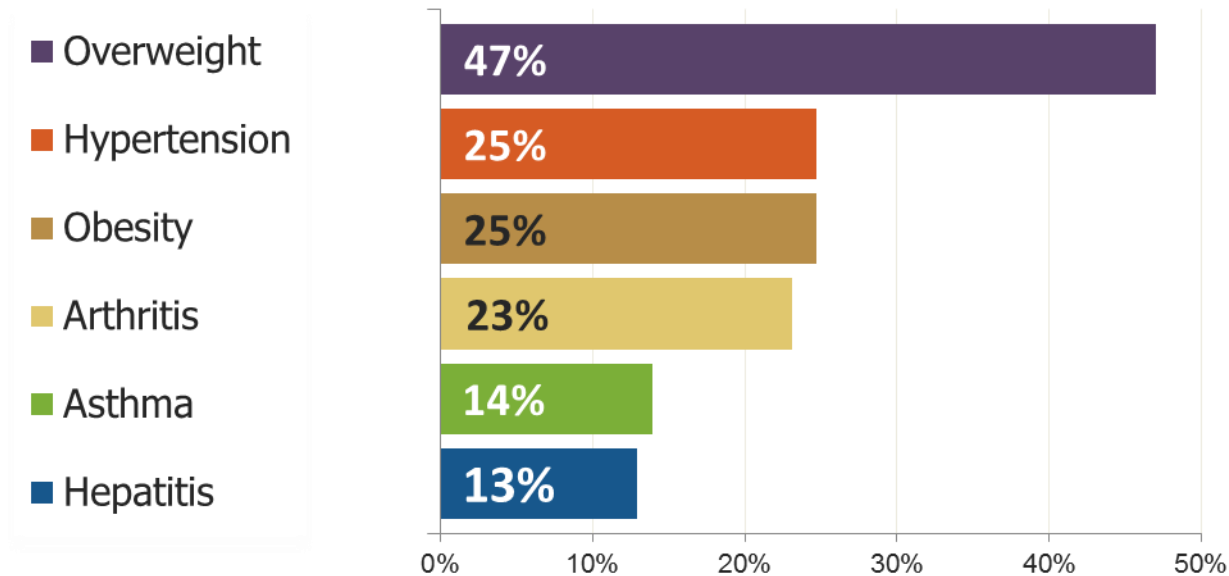
Medicaid Clients



Source: DSHS, Research and Data Analysis Behavioral Health Needs of Jail Inmates in Washington State, January 2016

Why is Suspension Important?

The prevalence of chronic medical conditions among U.S. adult jail and prison inmates is high:



American College of Correction Physicians, 2010

<http://societyofcorrectionalphysicians.org/corrdocs/corrdocs-archives/winter-2010/chronic-medical-diseases-among-jail-and-prison-inmates>

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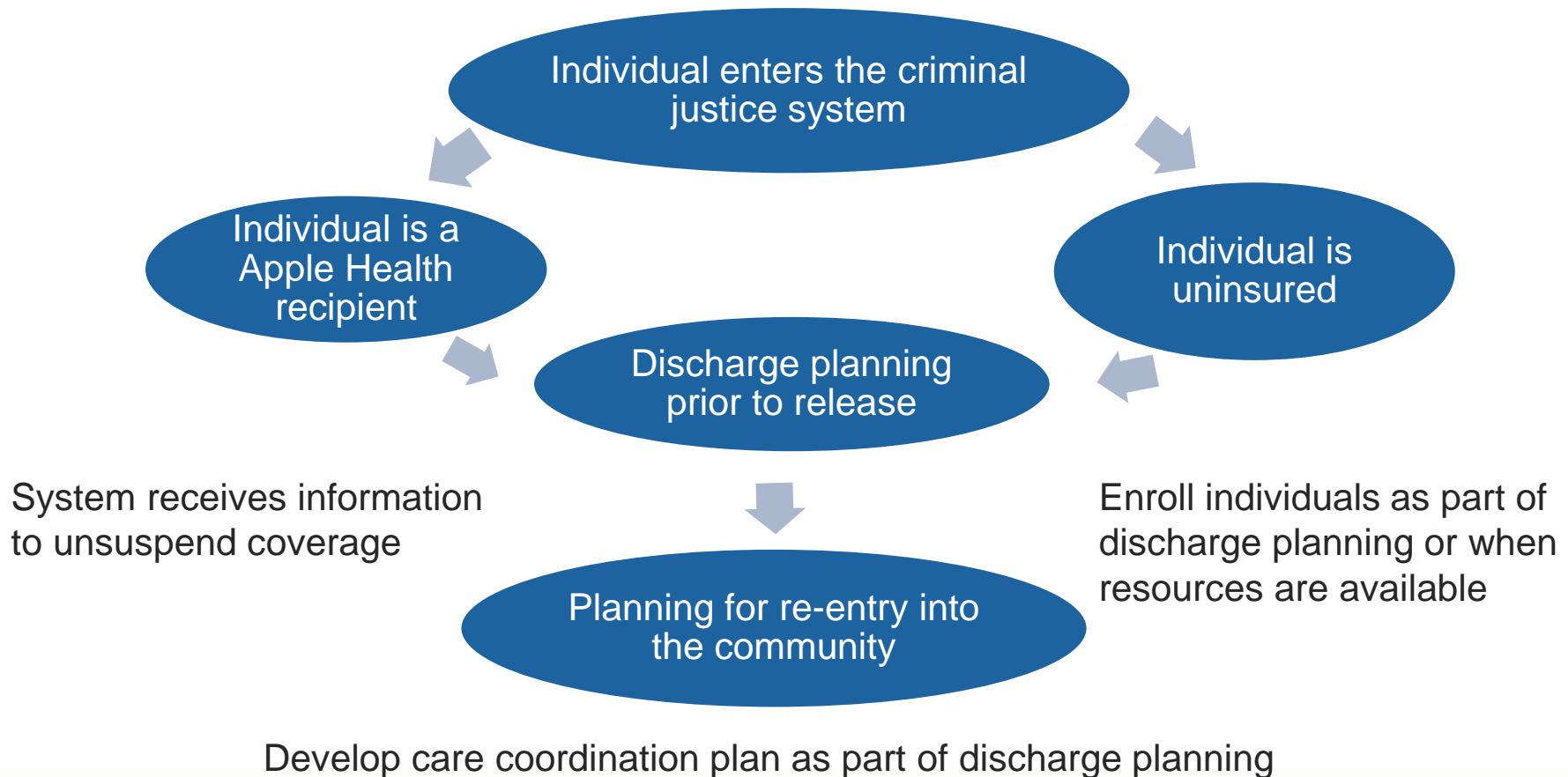
A study of adult jail inmates followed those who were booked in 2013. Looking retrospectively and following this population into the future the study found that:

- 86% of those had received DSHS or HCA services between 1999-2015 (not just medical)
- In 2013, 31% were actively enrolled in Apple Health, by 2016 this number expanded to 73% due to implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Source: DSHS, Research and Data Analysis Behavioral Health Needs of Jail Inmates in Washington State, January 2016

Suspension Process

Justice Involved Lifecycle



Suspension Process

1. Daily each facility manages their own inmate data that makes its way into the Jail Booking and Reporting System (JBRS).
2. HCA receives a daily data match between JBRS and matches between JBRS and ProviderOne, identifying incarcerated Apple Health beneficiaries.
3. HCA modifies the enrollment file in ProviderOne to suspend coverage.
4. ProviderOne displays the suspended status.
5. The facility inputs release data into JBRS.
6. ProviderOne updates the suspension file to restore full Apple Health coverage upon release.

Suspension Process Example

An Individual is taken
into custody 6:00 p.m.
Friday night



Saturday at 12:00 a.m.
HCA receives the
statewide jail booking data
and full scope coverage is
suspended



Sunday at 12:00 a.m.
HCA receives the
statewide jail booking
data and full scope
coverage is reinstated



Saturday night at 5:00
p.m. the individual is
released

Enrollment Process

Enrolling Eligible Individuals

Correctional facilities can apply for Apple Health on behalf of an inmate in their facility see [WAC 182-503-0010](#) :

(3) If you reside in an institution of mental diseases (as defined in WAC [182-500-0050](#)(1)) or a public institution (as defined in WAC [182-500-0050](#)(4)), including a Washington state department of corrections facility, city, tribal, or county jail, or secure community transition facility or total confinement facility (as defined in RCW [71.09.020](#)), you, your representative, or the facility may apply for you to get the apple health coverage for which you are determined eligible.

Enrolling Eligible Individuals

Individuals who are uninsured upon incarceration for ages 19-64 can be enrolled online at www.wahealthplanfinder.org

An interactive interview can be done with real time eligibility results.

This can be done through a certified HCA Volunteer Assister, which may include correctional facility staff, if interested.

The system will suspend coverage automatically overnight.

Things to Consider

Things to Consider

- Changing placements as inmates move from one facility to another
- Identifying resources and staff available to enroll individuals
- Create sustainable practices that ensure coverage despite fluid discharge dates
- Submitting applications from correctional facilities due to technical limitations

Best Practices

Enrollment Best Practices

The following are two models to start the enrollment process:

- Work with third party application assisters
- Train facility staff to become HCA Volunteer Assisters

Tips for Onsite Enrollment

Standardize procedures in your jail to facilitate Apple Health enrollment.

It is up to the correctional facility when the Apple Health enrollment should occur depending upon available resources.

Tips for Onsite Enrollment

Correctional facilities and application assisters can work together to allow easy access to their facilities.

Correctional Facilities Tasks

- Enable security clearance for enrollers
- Identify uninsured inmates close to discharge for enrollment
- Establish routine schedule for enrollment activities (e.g. every other Monday at 4:00pm)
- Develop application approach for each facility: laptops / tablets where internet is available; paper applications or phone where internet is unavailable

HCA Volunteer Assister Program

To enroll individuals in Apple Health, HCA offers a variety of Apple Health and Washington Healthplanfinder training and education resources.

To become a HCA Volunteer Assister, participants need to complete training modules, pass a knowledge test and a background check.

Once complete participants will be certified to receive system access in Washington Healthplanfinder.

For more information click [here](#)

Decisions for Correctional Facilities

Each correctional facility is unique and operates differently. Here are some questions to consider that may guide what model to select for your facility:

- Who to enroll and when (all at intake, when sent to hospital for treatment)
- Who does enrollment? correction staff, hospital staff?
- Cost effective?

Strategies for Prioritizing

Initially target high-need inmates including those with:

- Severe, chronic, or complex physical conditions
- Reliance on medical technology – requires specialized treatment or equipment
- Substance use disorders
- Severe, persistent mental illness
- HIV/AIDS
- Multiple prescriptions
- Or those who are pregnant

HCA Application Assistance

Designated regionally located HCA staff can assist with enrollment for correctional facilities upon booking or prior to discharge in the following ways:

- Over the telephone
- Paper application via email or fax

Please contact HCA Apple Health (Medicaid) Suspension project staff to initiate this option.

Resources

Additional Resource Information

- **HCA Training & Education Resources**

<http://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/apple-health-medicare-coverage/stakeholder-training-and-education>

- **Volunteer Assister**

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/apple-health-medicare-coverage/community-based-training>

- **Apple Health (Medicaid) Suspension Webpage**

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/apple-health-medicare-coverage/medicaid-suspension>

- **Washington Health Benefit Exchange**

<https://www.wahbexchange.org/>

Contact Us

Do you have
questions or
would you like to
get involved?

Visit the Apple Health
(Medicaid) Suspension
[Webpage](#)

HCA Apple Health (Medicaid) Suspension
Medicaidsuspension@hca.wa.gov

