

Changes to Apple Health for Kids continuous eligibility

Background

- Continuous eligibility means that you keep your coverage for a certain amount of time, regardless of changes in household income.
- For children, the length of continuous eligibility depends on age and program. Children under the age of six who are on free Apple Health for Kids, receive continuous eligibility through the end of their sixth birthday month.
- Children on free Apple Health for Kids who are over the age of six or those enrolled Apple Health for Kids with premiums, regardless of age, receive twelve months of continuous eligibility.

Eligibility for free Apple Health for Kids

- To be eligible a child must:
 - Be between the ages of 0 and 6,
 - Be a resident of Washington State, and
 - Have countable income equal to or below 215 percent of the federal poverty level at the time of application, or
 - Be on a free Apple Health program.

Operations

- Apple Health redeterminations have restarted due to the end of the continuous coverage requirement related to the public health emergency (PHE).
- A process is in place to identify and to reinstate eligible children who have experienced a loss of coverage since Apple Health redeterminations restarted.
- The Health Care Authority will perform this manual workaround until the system can implement an automated solution.
- Once the system supports continuous eligibility for kids under age six, children who are active on free Apple Health Kids and meet the eligibility criteria will have their certification period automatically extended through the month they turn six years of age.
- Children who receive newborn coverage or Classic Medicaid (Institutional, disability-related, Foster Care and Adoption Support, etc.) will automatically be moved to Apple Health for Kids at the end of their certification period.

Information for providers

The Health Care Authority (HCA) is working diligently to reinstate kids who lose coverage due to the PHE unwind redeterminations.

Providers should continue verifying eligibility through normal pathways including benefit inquiry. Work with your managed care organizations (MCO) if you come across an inactive child who appears to be eligible for continuous eligibility for kids under age 6.

More information

- Online: hca.wa.gov/apple-health-children