



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

JENNIFER VELEZ
Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

VALERIE HARR
Director

MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO. 12-17

DATE: December 10, 2012

TO: County Welfare Agency Directors

SUBJECT: Facilitating Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy

The state of New Jersey has experienced great loss and devastation as a result of Hurricane Sandy. In an effort to limit the demands on those who were affected by the storm, The Division has worked with the federal government to develop provisions that will ease the requirements for Medicaid eligibility and renewals for those affected by the storm.

Please find attached a detailed description of the changes that have been developed as a result of the storm. Additional information will be made available as it develops.

If you have any questions regarding this Medicaid Communication, please refer them to the Division's Office of Eligibility Policy field service staff for your agency at 609-588-2556.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Valerie Harr".

Valerie Harr
Director

VH:s

- c: Jennifer Velez, Commissioner
Department of Human Services
- Dawn Apgar, Deputy Commissioner
Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Lowell Arye, Deputy Commissioner
Aging and Community Services
- Lynn Kovich, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Joseph Amoroso, Director
Division of Disability Services
- Kathleen M. Mason, Director
Division of Aging Services
- Jeanette Page-Hawkins, Director
Division of Family Development
- Allison Blake, Commissioner
Department of Children and Families
- Mary E. O'Dowd, Commissioner
Department of Health

Facilitating Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare in the Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy

Until further notice, New Jersey will:

- Temporarily extend eligibility reviews by 90 days for all persons enrolled in Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare. Reviews will then be completed at next contact if prior to that period, or when there is a reported change. Utilize ex parte renewals as much as possible, checking all available systems and any other pieces of information readily available (such as NJ SNAP cases at your agency, TANF cases, etc.).
Authority under: 42 CF 435.911(c)(2) and 42 CFR457.340(d)(1)

- Temporarily allow for client attestation of income for individuals for pending and new applications filed for the months of November, December, and January that were unable to provide verification due to the hurricane and the state is otherwise unable to obtain verification utilizing existing systems.
Authority under: 42 USC 1396a(r)(2)

- Temporarily allow for client attestation of resources for individuals affected by the hurricane for individuals whose financial institutions were areas affected by the hurricane for pending and new applications filed for the months of November, December, and January that were unable to provide verification due to the hurricane and the state is otherwise unable to obtain verification utilizing existing systems. **Authority under: 42 USC 1396a(r)(2)**

- Temporarily allow attestation by a spenddown participant for expenses incurred 45 days before the hurricane. The attestation would replace the receipts for the incurred expenses. This attestation would not apply for expenses incurred after the hurricane. **Authority under: 42 CFR 435.121(e)(4)**

- Suspense of adverse actions for 30 days because of lack of ability to deliver notice of the adverse action. **Authority under: 42 CFR 431.211 and 42 CFR 435.930(b)**

- Allow affidavits for destroyed medical records.

More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

DMAHS' hotline (1-800-356-1561) and Office of Eligibility Policy and County Operations field staff (609-588-2556) can assist callers for those agencies who are closed or do not have the resources available to assist residents with questions. As a reminder, the Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare programs in New Jersey are State programs, and any County Welfare Agency can assist with applications regardless of the applicant's county of residence.