

August 15 – 28, 2023

Systems announcements

We will update this section with information about MN–ITS availability, technical information and other systems announcements when necessary.

Instructions for durable medical equipment and supplies prior authorization claims

When you submit claims June 1, 2023, through Aug. 31, 2023, for prior authorization (PA) for Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies (DMEPOS) that have been priced, do not include an attachment control number (ACN) with the claim.

For DMEPOS PA claims submitted through Aug. 31, 2023, that have not been priced, but require manual pricing, please send in an attachment listing the manufacturer's suggested retail price or invoice with the corresponding ACN. Directions for claim attachments can be found on the [Electronic claim attachments](#) webpage.

DMEPOS PA claims submitted after Aug. 31, 2023, that require manual pricing must include a pricing attachment. (pub. 8/25/23)

Minnesota Women, Infants and Children (WIC) formula substitutions

All Minnesota WIC formula substitutions end Aug. 27, 2023. Participants can purchase the formula brand and can size listed on their benefits. Substitute brands and larger can sizes for all contract formulas and medical formulas are no longer allowed through WIC.

Minnesota WIC contract formula includes:

- Enfamil Infant Formula (12.5-oz. powder, 13-oz. concentrate)
- Enfamil Gentlease (12.4-oz. powder)
- Enfamil Reguline (12.4-oz. powder)
- Enfamil A.R. Added Rice (12.9-oz. powder)

Infants receiving soy formula receive Abbott Nutrition soy formula, Similac Soy Isomil (12.4-oz. powder, 13-oz. concentrate).

Refer to the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH's) [Minnesota WIC Formula Summary – Exhibit 7B \(PDF\)](#) to review the list of WIC-allowed formulas. Information will be updated and available on MDH's [WIC and Health Care Providers](#) webpage. (pub. 8/25/23)

MHCP covers Sculptra for HIV-infected members

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) now covers the procedure codes **G0429** (administration) and **Q2028** (product) for Sculptra effective Aug. 1, 2023. Sculptra is an injectable implant placed under the skin for treatment of facial lipoatrophy and provides temporary fullness to improve the sunken appearance from fat loss that may appear with HIV therapy. Sculptra is for HIV-infected members who require antiretroviral HIV treatment, which can cause Lipodystrophy syndrome (LDS). LDS is often characterized by physical changes in the patient's appearance, which can be a significant contributor to the development of depression in HIV-infected members. For more information, refer to [Dermal Injections for the Treatment of Facial Lipodystrophy Syndrome \(LDS\)](#). (pub. 8/24/23)

Housing Stabilization Services frequently asked questions document updated

We updated the [FAQs: Housing Stabilization Services \(PDF\)](#). The update includes a restructure, newly answered questions, and new sections on the conflict of interest and remote support requirements for Housing Stabilization Services. Email dshousingstabilization@state.mn.us if you have questions about this message. (pub. 8/24/23)

Rate floor adjustments available to disproportionate share facilities for customized living services providers

Customized living services providers enrolled with Minnesota Health Care Programs may be eligible for a rate floor, or minimum daily rate, adjustment for members on Elderly Waiver receiving 24-hour customized living services.

Customized living services providers must apply with the Minnesota Department of Human Services to be designated as a disproportionate share facility to qualify. To apply, complete the [Elderly Waiver Customized Living Services Disproportionate Share Facility Application \(DHS-8157\) \(PDF\)](#) form and email it to dhs.aasd.hcbs@state.mn.us. DHS will accept applications from Sept. 1-30, 2023.

Review the Aging and Adult Services and Disability Services Division [eList announcement](#) for more information about the rate adjustment. (pub. 8/22/23)

Register for personal care assistant (PCA) Steps for Success training

Registration is now open for PCA Steps for Success training scheduled for **December 6-8, 2023**. Steps for Success is a three-day workshop offered to PCA agency owners and managing or supervising staff to meet the PCA agency provider training requirements when enrolling or maintaining enrollment with Minnesota Health Care Programs.

You can register for this training by clicking on the [Registration and cost](#) link on the PCA Steps for Success workshop webpage. The workshop is online only.

Contact the Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Resource Center at 651-431-2700 or 800-366-5411 with any questions. (pub. 8/16/23)

Direct Support Professional Recognition Week is Sept. 10-16

National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week is Sept. 10-16 this year. Employers are encouraged to make plans for showing appreciation of their employees' work. Recognition of employee contributions can make employees feel valued and create a more positive work environment which may lead to less turnover. (pub. 8/16/23)

Denied psychotherapy service limitation claims reprocessed

We published a provider news message on Feb. 7, 2023, announcing that we would temporarily suspend psychotherapy service limitations effective Jan. 1, 2023. Claims that exceeded original limits were denied as we updated our billing system. We have completed updating our billing system. We have reprocessed claims and the reprocessed claims will appear on your Aug. 15, 2023, remittance advice. (pub. 8/14/23)

Qualified Individual (QI) Program: Invitation to an informational meeting about an upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) scheduled Aug. 30

The Minnesota Department of Human Services, through its Child Safety and Permanency Division, is hosting an informational session about an upcoming RFP for the state QI program. This online informational session will be held Aug. 30, 2023, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Refer to the [Qualified Individual Program: Invitation to an informational meeting about an upcoming Request for Proposal](#) message for more information, including the link to join the meeting. (pub. 8/10/23)

Changes to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate in the 2023 fiscal year

The FMAP rate for claims the Department of Human Services paid in the 2023 federal fiscal year (on or after Oct. 1, 2022) has increased from 50.51 percent to 50.79 percent (1905[b] of Social Security Act).

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law No. 116-127, section 6008) provided an additional temporary increase of 6.2 percent in the FMAP rate for Medical Assistance claims paid from Jan. 1, 2020 – March 31, 2023, for the following services for children, parents or guardians with children under 19, individuals 65 and older, and individuals blind or disabled:

- Individualized Education Program
- Rule 5 Children’s Residential includes Institutions for Mental Disease, which receives a change in state funds equal to the federal fund change
- County-provided targeted case management services (child welfare, mental health and vulnerable adult-developmental disability)

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 provides a phase-down approach to the elimination of 6.2 percent of the COVID-19 FMAP rate, decreasing the COVID-19 FMAP to 2.5 percent for claims paid effective July 1, 2023 – Sept. 30, 2023.

The 2.5 percent COVID-19 FMAP rate decrease and the federal fiscal year FMAP rate increase to 50.79 percent does not apply to adults without children who are eligible under the Affordable Care Act and some other populations already receiving an enhanced FMAP rate.

Counties and providers do not need to do anything to receive the increased FMAP rate. Claims paid on your remittance advices starting July 5, 2023, until end of the quarter (Sept. 30, 2023) will be paid at the new 53.29 percent rate (this includes the additional COVID-19 FMAP phase-down rate).

Review the [FMAP information on the Federal Register webpage](#) for more information.

Contact the Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Resource Center at 651-431-2700 or 800-366-5411 if you have questions about this message. (pub. 8/3/23)

Home Health electronic visit verification (EVV) welcome letter and webpage updates

Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) sent a link to access the HHAeXchange EVV welcome letter to the MN–ITS mailboxes of both managed care organization and fee-for-service home health providers. We will contact providers who do not have a MN–ITS mailbox with another form of communication. Review the [Electronic visit verification welcome letter available in MN–ITS boxes](#) AASD and DSD eList announcement for more information.

DHS has updated the [Electronic visit verification](#) webpage with new information for home health providers. You can find information to begin preparing for implementation under the Home health tab, including the welcome letter, home health provider questionnaire, and HHAeXchange information sessions. (pub. 8/1/23)

Medical Assistance renewal deadline extended to Aug. 31 for people whose paperwork is overdue for Aug. 1 coverage

As Medicaid renewals resume across the country, Minnesota continues the challenging work to ensure eligible people retain their health care coverage. Last month, following Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, Minnesota delayed procedural closures for people who failed to return renewal paperwork. The one-month delay allowed DHS and its partners to conduct further, expanded enrollee outreach. In the intervening weeks, thousands of individuals and families who would have lost coverage submitted their paperwork to retain coverage.

The initial plan had been to delay closures for only the first renewal cohort of people who would have lost coverage July 1. Given the effectiveness of the additional outreach, and given some of the expanded efforts just began, we are working

with CMS to extend the deadline to Aug. 31 for the second renewal cohort of people who would have lost coverage Aug. 1. This includes Medical Assistance enrollees whose case is in either MAXIS or the Minnesota Eligibility Technology System (METS). In addition to more outreach to enrollees, the extra month will allow us to assess and adapt when we have more complete information about the first cohort's closure rate in early August.

About 56,000 people, or 23,500 households, with an August renewal have yet to turn in their renewal paperwork and are receiving notices that their coverage is closing. We want these Medical Assistance enrollees to know they still should submit renewal paperwork during the extension, and they need to do it as soon as possible. Delays put them at risk for coverage gaps that will need to be remedied later. Submitting paperwork now saves expense and burden for all involved. In addition to closed coverage notices, DHS will also reach out to these enrollees via text and voice message in enrollees' preferred language.

Please note, coverage will still end Aug. 1 for the July renewal cohort who had their renewal deadline extended from June 30 to July 31 but have not responded to their renewal. (pub. 7/26/23)

Use #CaringCareerMN to help share employment opportunities with prospective employees

The Follow Your Heart to a Caring Career campaign has one primary goal: to help Minnesota employers attract and hire people to provide care and support services. Use the Follow Your Heart to a Caring Career campaign to grow awareness about your business and brand, and expand your reach to prospective employees.

- Use #CaringCareerMN on your posts about hiring events so [CareerForce](#) and others can amplify your message.
- Use the social media graphics posted on CareerForce's [Follow Your Heart to a Caring Career graphics](#) webpage.
- Share CareerForceMN posts regarding a Caring Career.

CareerForce can help you find the workers you need in other ways, too. Refer to CareerForce's [Follow Your Heart to a Caring Career employer resources](#) webpage, which includes a recording of the July 13 employer information session, for other recruitment and engagement ideas. (pub. 7/26/23)

DHS has changed the risk level for home care nurse providers

Effective June 1, 2023, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) lowered the [risk level](#) for [eligible home care nurse providers](#) from a moderate risk level to a limited risk level. Home care nursing agencies remain at moderate risk level.

Also, DHS will no longer conduct site visits for home care nurse provider enrollment applications submitted **after June 1, 2023**. The home care nurse provider enrollment applications DHS received before June 1, 2023, are still subject to site visits.

Call the Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Resource Center at 651-431-2700 or 800-366-5411, option #4, if you have questions about this message. (pub. 7/25/23)

Register for personal care assistant (PCA) Steps for Success training

Registration is now open for PCA Steps for Success training scheduled for **September 6-8, 2023**. You can register for this training on the PCA Steps for Success workshop webpage. Click on the [Registration and cost](#) link to register online.

Contact the Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Resource Center at 651-431-2700 or 800-366-5411 with any questions. (pub. 7/20/23)

DHS extends temporary waiver allowing certain family members to be paid for providing PCA services

During the COVID-19 federal public health emergency, personal care assistance (PCA) agencies were temporarily allowed to hire the following types of family members to be paid to provide PCA services to individuals enrolled in Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP):

- Parents
- Stepparents
- Legal guardians of minors
- Spouses

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) previously communicated that the federal government announced the allowance for certain family members to provide PCA care to their MHCP-enrolled family member was ending on May 11, 2023, when the federal public health emergency ends. However, on Friday, May 5, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) notified DHS of a change to federal policy that allowed DHS to apply for a six-month extension to this allowance. The temporary allowance will now continue through **November 11, 2023**.

What this means for PCA agencies and family members who have been providing PCA services:

After May 11, 2023, PCA agencies can continue to hire and pay the family members listed in this message to provide PCA services to members enrolled in MHCP through **November 11, 2023**.

DHS has added a memo in PCA agencies MN-ITS mailbox for additional information. Call the MHCP Provider Resource Center for further information at 651-431-2700 or 800-366-5411, Option 4; or email HCSD.DHS@state.mn.us for DSD-related questions and DHS.AASD.HCBS@state.mn.us for AASD-related questions. (pub. 5/12/23)

Coverage for uninsured Medical Assistance (MA) coverage group (Major program TT) ends May 11, 2023

Coverage for the MA coverage group (Major program TT) ends May 11, 2023, with the end of the federal public health emergency. Major program TT was authorized by the Minnesota Legislature during the COVID-19 federal public health emergency for those who are uninsured to cover testing, diagnosis of COVID-19, access to receive vaccines and treatment related to COVID-19. Refer to [COVID-19 Testing](#) in the COVID-19 section of the Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) Provider Manual for more information. Call the MHCP Provider Resource Center at 651-431-2700 or 800-366-5411 if you have questions about this message. (pub. 5/9/23)

Updated webpage and new tools help Minnesotans keep their health insurance as renewals resume in public health care programs

Minnesota Department of Human Services refreshed the [Renew My Coverage](#) webpage and will launch new tools in the coming weeks to make it easier for Minnesotans to keep their health insurance now that annual member eligibility renewals have resumed in public health care programs. Please share this information with the members you serve.

Members should look for:

- A new envelope design to help renewal paperwork stand out better in mailboxes. Envelopes are now marked with a blue circle with the text "Important information enclosed."
- A new [document upload tool](#) that allows members to skip the postage and upload their annual eligibility renewal documents online. Enrollees can also submit renewal paperwork by postal mail, dropping it off at their county or tribal office, fax or by giving their information verbally over the phone.

Members will soon be able to:

- Use a new renewal date lookup tool to find out when to watch their mail for renewal information.
- Receive text messages from the number "28343" when it's time to fill out and submit their renewal paperwork.

We are committed to ensuring that eligible Minnesotans retain their public coverage when renewal processes resume as required by Congressional legislation that [states to return to standard Medicaid eligibility procedures](#). On the [Renew my coverage](#) webpage, we have created a one-stop shop for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare members with all the information they need about how to keep their insurance.

The most important thing enrollees can do now to prepare for their renewal is to [Update their contact information](#). Members who have moved in the last three years should update their address, phone number and email, so they can be reached.

Renewal information will be mailed to members in monthly waves or “cohorts” each month for the next 12 months. The first group of Minnesotans due for their renewal paperwork will get their renewal information mailed within the next few weeks. (pub. 4/27/23)

Federal COVID-19 public health emergency ends May 11

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra notified states that the federal COVID-19 PHE will end on May 11, 2023, in a [Letter to U.S. Governors renewing COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \(PHE\)](#). We will continue to communicate policy updates as this unfolds. (pub. 3/14/23)

COVID-19 vaccines and administration codes update

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) posted a Provider News message on October 25, 2022, about the category of service edit occurring for the following COVID-19 vaccines and administration codes:

- Vaccine 91304
administration codes 0041A and 0042A
- Vaccine 91308
administration codes 0081A, 0082A and 0083A
- Vaccine 91311
administration codes 0111A, 0112A and 0113A
- Vaccine 91307
administration codes 0071A, 0072A, 0073A, and 0074A

The category of service edit is now fixed. We reprocessed claims back to the effective dates for the covered codes included in this message.

Find the effective dates for the covered codes on the [MHCP fee schedule](#) webpage or under [Vaccines](#) in the [Billing](#) section under Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the MHCP Provider Manual. (pub. 1/31/23)

2023 clinical trainings for EIDBI and other interested provider types

A series of clinical trainings will be held in 2023 for Early Intensive Developmental and Behavioral Intervention (EIDBI) providers and other interested provider types. Refer to the following dates, times, topics and learning objectives for each session.

- **Thursday August 31, 2023, 9 to 10 a.m.: Person-centered Individual Treatment Plan (ITP) development**
 - Apply a person-centered lens to ITP development and monitoring
 - Prioritize goals based on preferences of the person and family
 - Discuss examples of person-centered, observable and measurable goals
 - Registration is required on the [August EIDBI Clinical Training](#) webpage
- **Tuesday September 12, 2023, noon to 1 p.m.: Person-centered intervention practices**
 - Integrate person-centered practices into treatment planning and implementation
 - Apply proactive strategies and antecedent-based interventions
 - Discuss pairing opportunities and reinforcement
 - Registration is required on the [September EIDBI Clinical Training](#) webpage
- **Wednesday October 18, 2023, 9 to 10 a.m.: Long-term goal development and implementation**
 - Identify the purpose of long-term goals and transition planning
 - Generate person-centered, observable and measurable long-term goals
 - Access resources available to assist with transition planning

- Registration is required on the [October EIDBI Clinical Training](#) webpage
- **Wednesday November 8, 2023, noon – 1 p.m.: Coordinating care and collaborating with other professionals**
 - Assess the impact of care coordination
 - Identify resources to facilitate collaboration
 - Discuss examples of coordination across service systems
 - Registration is required on the [November EIDBI Clinical Training](#) webpage

Continuing Education Unit (CEU) information

Continuing education credits will be offered for Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) through the Minnesota Northland Association for Behavior Analysis ([MNABA](#)). All courses will be worth one credit unless otherwise noted. Link to access the CEUs is found under the Agenda section of the registration webpage. Certificates of participation will also be offered for others upon request to submit to their licensure or certification boards. (pub. 1/18/23)

Free Organizational Transformation webinars for Employment and Day Service providers

The Minnesota Transformation Initiative (MTI) in collaboration with the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation (MOHR) will hold quarterly trainings focused on organizational transformation to support community engagement and competitive employment. These trainings are free and open to any employment and day service provider in Minnesota.

Webinars will be held on the following dates from 1 - 2:30 p.m.:

- Nov. 16, 2023
- Feb. 15, 2024

Planned training topics include:

- Setting a vision and defining success for transformation
- Managing through change (including supporting staff, clarifying roles, identifying professional development, and communication with staff)
- Financial stability and sustainability
- Moving from center-based to community-based services
- Employer engagement

Each session will include perspectives and special considerations for rural providers.

Registration for each quarterly webinar will be sent through the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Employment First email list. Sign up to receive the email by visiting and scrolling to the bottom of the [Employment First](#) webpage. Trainings will be recorded, and recordings will be sent to all who register.

The Minnesota Transformation Initiative is a project funded by (DHS) to support the transition of people with disabilities receiving subminimum wages into competitive, integrated employment. Email Danielle Mahoehney at mahoe001@umn.edu for more information about MTI project activities. (pub. 10/6/22)

Training

Minnesota Provider Screening and Enrollment (MPSE) portal live demonstrations

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) will be offering monthly live demonstrations of various functions in the [MPSE Portal](#). Live demonstrations take place on the first Wednesday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. starting on **Sept 7, 2022**. There will be three categories of live demonstrations provided on a rotating basis. These live demonstrations are free of charge.

Categories of live demonstrations include:

- New Provider Enrollment
 - How to enroll in MPSE as a first-time provider
 - Shows the steps for enrollment from registration to submission

- Managing Enrollment Records
 - How to enroll new locations
 - How to update services, credentials, addresses, and other enrollment information
- Managing Affiliations
 - How to affiliate an individual provider to an organization
 - How to affiliate an organization to an individual provider
 - How to affiliate an organization to a direct support worker
 - How to affiliate a trading partner

Who should attend?

- Owners of MHCP-enrolled organizations or individual providers
- Employees of MHCP-enrolled organizations who maintain provider enrollment records
- Employees of MHCP-enrolled organizations who process affiliations
- Employees of MHCP-enrolled organizations responsible for MHCP compliance
- Anyone interested in learning more about the MPSE portal

Register for these demonstrations on the [MPSE portal training](#) webpage where you can also find on-demand videos and links to more information about the MPSE portal. (pub. 8/18/22)

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) on-demand video and online training updates

MHCP offers training for providers who provide services for members enrolled in MHCP. We have updated on-demand and online training opportunities on the [MHCP provider training](#) webpage.

On-demand videos

On-demand videos are arranged by category, including Minnesota Provider Screening and Enrollment Portal (MPSE), MN-ITS and Billing. Each video can be viewed in 10 minutes or less and provides instructions on a concept or technique.

Online training

Online training is arranged by content for all providers or specific providers. Training is led by an instructor who will help attendees navigate the Minnesota Department of Human Services website and locate and use MHCP provider information and other related webpages or internet-based applications such as MN-ITS. All instructor-led training is online only. (pub. 11/22/22)

Free online Resources and MN-ITS training available

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) offers free online training for MHCP-enrolled providers. Go to the [MHCP provider training](#) webpage to review the list of available training. (pub. 11/22/22, rev. 1/31/23, rev. 2/28/23, rev. 4/5/23, rev. 4/25/23)

School-based community services (SBCS) provider training and MN-ITS training available

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) offers free SBCS provider training and MN-ITS billing lab training to schools who want to provide and bill for SBCS. MHCP will be providing training online through a webinar. Visit the [SBCS Provider Training and MN-ITS Billing Lab](#) webpage for dates, registration and more information. (pub. 8/7/23)

Free online Provider Basics and MN-ITS training available

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) is offering free online Provider Basics Resources and MN-ITS training to all enrolled MHCP providers who bill fee-for-services claims. This training is being offered monthly beginning Mar. 10, 2021.

You will learn how to navigate the MHCP provider webpages and the MHCP provider manual, and how to use MN-ITS administration, mailbox and eligibility requests (270/271) features. Go to the [Provider Basics](#) webpage to register for this training.

Claim training is not provided in this training. See our [MHCP provider training](#) webpage to register for provider-specific claim training. (pub. 2/11/21)

On-demand training videos

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) offers free on-demand training videos arranged by category on the [MHCP provider training](#) webpage. Each video can be viewed in 10 minutes or less and provides instructions on a concept or technique. (pub. 12/13/22)

Free online Minnesota Provider Screening and Enrollment (MPSE) training available

Minnesota Health Care Programs is providing free online training for our MPSE online portal.

See the [MPSE portal training](#) webpage for registration, brief online tutorials to help prepare you for class and more information. (pub. 2/1/20, rev. 2/19/20, 7/27/22)

Additional information

- [Provider news and updates archive](#)
- [MHCP provider policies and procedures](#)
- [Latest Manual Revisions](#)
- [Grants and requests for proposals](#)

Call the MHCP Provider Resource Center at 651-431-2700 or 800-366-5411 if you have questions about this information.