

DHB ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO: 07-23, MEDICAID FOR COVID-19 TESTING GROUP – APPLICATIONS

DATE: June 2, 2023

SUBJECT: Medicaid for COVID-19 Testing Group -Applications

DISTRIBUTION: County Departments of Social Services
Medicaid Supervisors
Medicaid Eligibility Staff

I. BACKGROUND

On March 13, 2020, the President issued a proclamation declaring a federal public health emergency (PHE) concerning the Coronavirus Disease outbreak (COVID-19). Beginning in March 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued guidance to be followed during the COVID-19 PHE.

Additionally, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) added a new optional Medicaid eligibility group for uninsured individuals to cover COVID-19 Testing during the PHE. These individuals are eligible to receive a limited benefit of testing and diagnosis of COVID-19 only and coverage will continue through the end of the PHE.

The purpose of this Administrative Letter is to provide guidance for processing applications for Medicaid for COVID-19 Testing Group (MCV) that are received on or before May 31, 2023. On April 10, 2023, [Public Law \(PL\) 118-3](#) was signed into law by the President. PL 118-3 terminated the COVID-19 PHE effective May 11, 2023. North Carolina Medicaid approves Medicaid coverage for the entire month, therefore the PHE ending on May 11, 2023 results in MCV coverage through May 31, 2023, at which time, the MCV program ended.

II. CONTENT OF CHANGE

A. Active Cases

The section outlines the actions taken by NC FAST for active MCV cases. It also includes actions regarding notification to MCV beneficiaries about PHE ending and MCV case closure.

1. Beneficiaries who had an active MCV case on May 12, 2023 were automatically notified that their benefits will terminate on May 31, 2023.
2. NC FAST systematically closed all MCV cases that were active effective May 31, 2023 and no caseworker action is needed.

B. Pending or New MCV Applications through May 31,2023

It is **imperative** that all MCV applications received or pending on or before May 31, 2023 are processed according to the guidelines below.

1. MCV applications processed after May 12, 2023 must be processed as an open/shut case by the caseworker.
2. Applications that are currently pending disposition must be processed **prior to June 16, 2023** if the applicant is applying for MCV or is ineligible for any other Medicaid program but eligible for MCV.
3. NC FAST will systematically generate and mail the appropriate notice, which advises the individual that their coverage for MCV ended May 31, 2023.
4. Individuals on any pending Medicaid or MCV applications that are dispositioned after June 16, 2023 will not be able to be approved for MCV coverage for prior months, regardless of the date of application. The MCV program is no longer an available program as of May 31, 2023.

C. Retroactive Applications Received after May 31, 2023

1. The MCV program in NC FAST will not be an available program for applications for retroactive Medicaid received after May 31, 2023.
2. Individuals who apply for retroactive months of March, April, and/or May 2023 cannot be authorized for retroactive MCV coverage, as the program is no longer available as of May 31, 2023.

D. NC FAST Functionality to End


1. NC FAST will end MCV application submission and processing functionality after June 16, 2023.
2. MCV applications have been removed from the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) website on June 1, 2023.
3. Local agencies must destroy any remaining paper applications for MCV that are available for applicants.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

Guidance found in this administrative letter is effective upon receipt for all MCV applications received or pending on or before June 1, 2023.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your [Medicaid Operational Support Team](#) representative.

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Jay Ludlam

Deputy Secretary, NC Medicaid