



Below is an update on the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan and Health Insurance Marketplace:

[Iowa Health and Wellness Plan](#)

Provider Training Sessions Announced: Iowa Medicaid has announced a special series of provider training sessions related to the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. Trainings will be held throughout October and November in eight cities across Iowa. To review the full schedule and register for the training, visit the [registration page here](#).

Medically Exempt Process: The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan provides for an Alternative Benefit Plan for enrollees. This includes both the Iowa Wellness Plan and the Marketplace Choice Plan. Federal law defines individuals that are exempt from mandatory enrollment in an Alternative Benefit Plan. Iowa Medicaid must identify exempt individuals and offer a choice between the Alternative Benefit and the Regular Medicaid State Plan Benefit.

Medically exempt individuals are defined as: individuals with disabling mental disorders (including adults with serious mental illness), individuals with chronic substance use disorders, individuals with serious and complex medical conditions, individuals with a physical, intellectual or developmental disability that significantly impairs their ability to perform 1 or more activities of daily living, or individuals with a disability determination based on Social Security criteria.

Medically exempt individuals will be identified through three different processes. The first is a screening at the time of enrollment. The next process for identification will be a provider referral. Iowa Medicaid will develop a referral form to be used by providers or other entities such as counties with a treating or payer relationship with the member. The form will ask for attestation that conditions as defined above are present.

Iowa Medicaid will also perform a retrospective claims analysis to help identify medically exempt members. Look for more details on the medically exempt process in next week's update.

Learn More: Looking for the most up-to-date information on the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan? Visit the [Iowa Health and Wellness Plan webpage](#) for the latest documents and information.

[IowaCare Transition](#)

Update on Member Transition: The Department of Human Services (DHS) has re-evaluated the decision that all IowaCare members will have to go through the full application process for the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. **Instead, DHS will centrally verify the income of all IowaCare members and will 'administratively transfer' qualifying members into the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. For those members application will not be necessary. Please note IowaCare members already have their citizenship and identity verified.**

For members who cannot be verified or whose income exceeds the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan limits, those members will be instructed to proceed to the application process.

Iowa Medicaid Enterprise will send letters to each IowaCare member before October 1 notifying them of this change. The verification/transfer process will take place before the end of October. Members whose verified income indicates eligibility for Iowa Health and Wellness will receive confirmation of eligibility and will proceed to enrollment in plans and with physicians. Members will be made eligible for a determined period of time, at which point they will have to go through eligibility determination.

Members whose income cannot be verified, or cannot be transferred, or have income too high for the program, will receive an additional letter instructing them to proceed to HealthCare.gov. They will receive this letter by the end of October.

Look for additional information regarding this process next week.

Health Insurance Marketplace

Outreach and Education Grant Approval: The Iowa Insurance Division recently received approval to assist the federal government in their efforts to help Iowans better understand their options for enrolling in health care coverage. [See the press release for more information.](#)

Health Insurance Marketplace Community Events: The Iowa Insurance Division will be hosting 20 different community events throughout the state to help educate Iowans about their options for health care coverage and the Health Insurance Marketplace. Staff from the Iowa Insurance Division and Department of Human Services will present and answer questions at each event. [Look for an event in your community here.](#)

Kickoff Meeting in Des Moines on Saturday, September 21: The kickoff event for outreach and education efforts will be Saturday, September 21 in Des Moines. This is the first of the community events hosted by the Iowa Insurance Division. The event is open to the public. See the [flyer for more information](#) about Saturday's kickoff event.

Please feel free to share this information with others in your organization or your community. If you'd like to subscribe to these email notifications, please email "subscribe" along with your name, organization and contact information to IMECommunications@dhs.state.ia.us.

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