



Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority

Managing behavioral healthcare with a conscience.

FAQs for Providers

Proposition 204 Rollover and AHCCCS Childless Adult Program Changes for 2011

Why are AHCCCS programs and behavioral health benefits being reduced or frozen?

On March 15, 2011, Governor Brewer presented her plan to preserve Arizona's Medicaid program with reforms to reduce growing costs to the State's General Fund. The "State of Arizona Proposed Medicaid Reform Plan" (Plan) was approved by the Legislature as part of the Fiscal Year 2012 budget adoption. One component of the Plan included a freeze on eligibility for the AHCCCS Care Program (Childless Adults), which will become effective July 1, 2011.

AHCCCS, in collaboration with community stakeholders, has developed a transition plan to implement the July 1, 2011 eligibility freeze for Childless Adults. The transition plan: identifies steps taken to transition Childless Adults to other available AHCCCS coverage categories, if eligible; establishes resources and tools to aid providers in doing outreach to assist Childless Adults in the redetermination process; and, establishes required notifications and information to the affected persons and stakeholders. Detailed information about AHCCCS' Childless Adult Transition Plan is available at

<http://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/news.aspx#GovernorBrewersMedicaidReformPackage>

What is the AHCCCS Childless Adult Program?

Childless adults is a waiver program for adults who have not been determined Medicaid eligible under a categorical link (aged, blind, disabled, pregnant, under 18 or parent of a deprived child). Currently, childless adults have open ended eligibility with redeterminations every 12 months. They have incomes under 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) however; an asset test is not required. DES determines eligibility for this program for AHCCCS.

What is the Supplemental Security Income-Medical Assistance Only (SSI-MAO) program?

Through the Supplemental Security Income-Medical Assistance Only (SSI-MAO) program, elderly or disabled persons may be eligible for AHCCCS medical assistance. The AHCCCS

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July 5, 2011

Page 2

SSI-MAO office in Phoenix determines eligibility for this program.). The SSI-MAO office processes AHCCCS medical assistance applications for persons who are not receiving disability payments, but meet the Medicaid definition of disability, including Serious Mental Illness (SMI).

What is the Rollover process and how does it occur?

Beginning July 1, 2011, and every month thereafter, AHCCCS will move all members who were not previously eligible to the SSI-MAO category who are:

- in the Childless Adult category who are age 65 and older,
- under age 65 with Medicaid (AHCCCS eligibility),
- adults with an SMI indicator in PMMIS (identified as SMI by ADHS/DBHS through the RBHAs and their provider network) and
- HIV/AIDS adults who lose Childless Adult eligibility at redetermination

The original rollover was completed automatically by AHCCCS; it does not matter whether the member's eligibility was completed by AHCCCS or DES – no changes to a member's eligibility are needed to be included in this rollover process.

AHCCCS has and will continue to contact all members with a series of notices to let them know about the changes to all categories and if their individual benefits will change as a result of the Childless Adult and budget revisions.

Are providers required to take any action after the rollover is completed to assist members in this process?

AHCCCS will begin to contact members to notify them of the redetermination date for all those whose eligibility changes to SSI-MAO. When the redetermination is due, individual members will need to verify that they meet the eligibility requirements to stay in the SSI-MAO category.

AHCCCS states that they will **not** be processing redeterminations for SSI MAO members transferred from AHCCCS Care to SSI MAO until they work out the details for that process and have worked with DBHS, the T/RBHAs and the behavioral health providers.

Providers must use outreach activities to contact and assist members in this redetermination process –all reasonable efforts must be made in these activities. Without this assistance members may lose their eligibility status.

July 5, 2011

Page 3

Is there a guide to assist members in the SSI-MAO application and verification process?

An iLinc training developed by the AHCCCS Health-e-Arizona training team is posted on the NARBHA website at <http://narbha.org> and the Arizona Department of Health/Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS) website at <http://www.azdhs.gov/bhs/index.htm>. **It is REQUIRED that all provider staff that assist people with the application process complete this training and become knowledgeable of the process and required verification documents required to complete eligibility.**

There is also a guide that can be downloaded at <http://narbha.org/for-providers/prov-communications-2011/>.

If you need further assistance with this process contact **NARBHA Member Services at 1-800-640-2123.**

What happens if the member is found to be ineligible for the SSI-MAO category at redetermination?

SMI members who are moved to the SSI-MAO category as part of the rollover process and are subsequently determined to be ineligible under the requirements for that program will be returned to the Childless Adult program without a break in coverage. They will then be required to meet all eligibility and redetermination requirements of the Childless Adult program, including the six-month redetermination process.

What activities are providers required to complete for SMI members who return to the Childless Adult program once determined ineligible for the SSI-MAO category?

Providers must use outreach activities to contact and assist members in this redetermination process –all reasonable efforts must be made in these activities. Without this assistance members may lose their eligibility status. **Please refer to NARBHA Provider Manual 3.1 for additional outreach requirements.**

Members in the Childless adult program, who lose coverage because they did not comply with the redetermination process, will be notified by AHCCCS that they are no longer eligible, and they may not reapply for the Childless Adult program.

They can file an appeal with AHCCCS if they believe their eligibility was discontinued in error and that they can apply for Medicaid if they believe they would qualify because they can verify that they are blind, aged, disabled, pregnant, or the parent of a deprived child.

Are there additional actions providers must take when an SMI member loses AHCCCS eligibility?

Yes, if a member has a diagnosis of SMI and they lose their AHCCCS eligibility, steps must be taken as outlined previously to safely transition the member to the Non-Title XIX SMI limited benefit program.

If a SMI member who loses AHCCCS eligibility is receiving supported housing, the T/RBHA shall maintain Supported Housing - General Fund services for Non-Title XIX SMI members until the member has transitioned to alternative housing. Alternative housing must be safe, stable, and consistent with the member's recovery goals in the least restrictive environment. Shelters, hotels, and similar temporary living arrangements are not considered alternative housing. **Please see NARBHA Provider Manual 3.26 for additional information.**

Providers must assist those members who file an appeal with AHCCCS if they believe their eligibility was discontinued in error and inform them that they can apply for Medicaid if they believe they would qualify because they can verify that they are blind, aged, disabled, pregnant, or the parent of a deprived child. These members with substance abuse conditions must also be screened for other benefits under the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant program. **Please see NARBHA Provider Manual Section 3.19.1 for additional information.**

Will there be any changes made to the Childless Adult program and is it being closed down?

On July 8, 2011, AHCCCS will place a freeze on new applications/enrollment on the Childless Adult Program—this means that no new applications will be accepted for this category after July 7, 2011 – but no one currently receiving services under the Childless adult program will lose their eligibility as a result of the enrollment freeze.

Applications received prior to July 8, 2011 will be processed even if DES and AHCCCS cannot complete the eligibility determination until after July 8, 2011.

What happens to persons who remain on the Childless Adult Category and are not part of the SSI-MAO rollover – will they lose their eligibility by a certain date or at review?

As long as a person continues to meet the eligibility requirements for this program and completes their redetermination application timely they will continue to be eligible for AHCCCS services in the Childless Adult Category.

Are there any other changes to the Childless Adult Category?

Not at this time. A separate waiver was submitted by the Governor's office requesting that the redetermination period for eligible members in this category has been changed from every 12 months to every 6 months—but at this time, it has not been approved.

AHCCCS eligible children who “age out” of their current category (KidsCare, 1931, SOBRA and YATI) will be automatically rolled into the Childless Adult program. AHCCCS will then notify him/her of their redetermination date to verify continued eligibility in this program. For additional information please refer to **NARBHA Provider Manual Section 3.17 Transition of Persons.**

July 5, 2011
Page 5

It is imperative that Providers and staff take all reasonable action to contact and assist members in getting these redeterminations completed timely to avoid loss of their eligibility and benefits.

NARBHA is the Regional Behavioral Health Authority for Coconino, Navajo, Yavapai, Apache and Mohave counties. Funds for services are provided through a contract with the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services and AHCCCS.