

Redeterminations and the PHE Unwinding

Health Law Advocates

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Kara Hurvitz

Program Manager/Staff Attorney

Unwinding the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Why are we worried for Kien, and others in similar circumstances?

Pandemic Protections

- In 2020, Congress passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
 - Protected Medicaid coverage during the Public Health Emergency (PHE)
 - Federal government *paid* states to keep people on Medicaid during PHE
- PHE first declared in March 2020, and ongoing since that time

“No one” lost MassHealth during the pandemic, but...

- Enrollment protection unless:
 - Voluntarily withdrew from coverage
 - Moved out of state, or
 - Passed away
- However, like Kien, some people lost MassHealth in error

Now that is changing...

- December 2022 legislation removes Medicaid coverage protection on 4/1/23
- MassHealth begins redetermination process on April 1, 2023
- MassHealth has *one year* to renew all 2.3 million members
- People who are no longer eligible will lose coverage

...and enrollment may get messy.

- Many families relocated during the pandemic or experienced homelessness
- Many changed jobs, lost/gained income
- Widespread confusion about immigration-related eligibility in MassHealth
- MassHealth will request lots of paperwork that can be hard to provide
- *These things will affect eligibility and make the renewal process harder!*

Some things begin right on 4/1

- MassHealth will start some types of renewals first:
 - People who MassHealth believes are no longer eligible
 - Individuals who “self-attested” to disability status
 - Renewals between April-July
 - People who last renewed in April 2022

...but not everyone will see change on 4/1

- Not all redeterminations are beginning immediately
- MassHealth has 14 months to complete this process for all members
- Members may have confusion about when this will impact them personally

What's the Process?

- If MassHealth has updated information, they will mail a **blue envelope** to the household when it's time to renew
- Members will have **45 days** to respond
- If they don't respond within those 45 days, members **might lose** their MassHealth

For current members

➤ Members should:

- Make sure their information with MassHealth is **up-to-date**
- Look for the redetermination application in the mail – it will be in a **blue envelope**
- **Respond** to the application promptly when it arrives by mail!

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How will HLA help?

HLA legal representation:

- **Appealing enrollment decisions** from MassHealth and the Health Connector
- **Resolving medical debt** that arises from enrollment confusion and administrative churn

Redeterminations and the Public Health Emergency Unwinding

If you are working with a family that needs help with an appeal or medical debt, please contact us!

How to Contact Us:

➤ By phone: 617-338-5241

➤ Online:

<https://www.healthlawadvocates.org/contact-us>

As the year continues, trends will emerge

- As HLA represents members, we learn more about the problems people face
- We track patterns across cases
- HLA advocates for policy changes to protect members

This leads to systemic changes!

- We meet regularly with **MassHealth** and **other advocates** to push for improvements and identify problems
- Addressing major issues at **the systemic level** will be an important part of HLA's work over the next year

Questions?

Kara Hurvitz

Project Manager/Staff Attorney

- P: 617-275-2846
- E: khurvitz@hla-inc.org