Missouri Coalition for Oral Health

Dental Providers: Prepare for Eligibility Changes Beginning January 1, 2027

By Lori Reed, Dental Medicaid Facilitator, Missouri Coalition for Oral Health

As a dental provider you may be questioning how eligibility changes might affect your business. Moving forward, it will be more important than ever to ensure that staff verify eligibility on the date of service. It's best to avoid spanned dates as these leave room for error.

House Resolution 1 (H.R. 1), also known as Public Law #119-21, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, or the Working Families Tax Cut legislation, created changes for public benefit programs like MO HealthNet. Designed to improve how social services are delivered, notable changes include:

- non-citizen eligibility
- community engagement requirements
- 6-month renewals
- retroactive coverage
- cost-sharing

Beginning January 1, 2027, adults ages 19-64 in the MO HealthNet Adult Expansion Group may be subject to Community Engagement Requirements. People who are subject to the requirements can meet them through qualifying pathways such as work, community service, certain work programs, education, a combination of qualifying activities, or the monthly income standard. Medicaid adults that meet medical frailty criteria are exempt from these requirements. *These changes will not affect pregnant women, children, and people with disabilities.* These categories shouldn't see disruptions with coverage. If they do, please let us know. MCOH contact information is available at the end of this article.

The 6-month renewal begins in January 2027 and requires that Medicaid eligibility be redetermined every six months for adult expansion enrollees. Current 12-month requirement remains for all other populations.

The MCOH website explains more about verifying eligibility. That link can be found here: Verifying Patient Eligibility - MCOH. This site is full of information that we hope you find helpful.

Changes are being made to the Family Support Division (FSD) and the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) websites, as well as other online resources, as changes or updates occur. If you haven't signed up to receive bulletins, hot tips or other updates from MHD we encourage you to sign up at MO HealthNet News | Missouri Department of Social Services.

For more information about the upcoming changes, refer to these links: mydss.mo.gov/hr1, H.R.1 Participant Resources | Missouri Department of Social Services and Missouri Department of Social Services Launches H.R. 1 Communications Toolkit to Help Partners Prepare for Upcoming Changes .

As always, if you have questions, please contact the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health by email at info@oralhealthmissouri.org or schedule a one-on-one session by emailing Dental Medicaid Facilitator Lori Reed at lreed@oralhealthmissouri.org or call or text 573.260.3096.