



August 2023

THE MORE YOU KNOW

It's Back to School! CMS Releases New Guidance to Reduce Administrative Burden of School-Based Services



By making it easier to access Medicaid reimbursement for health care provided in schools, we can bring vital services to children in the place where they spend most of their time. Nearly 42 million children nationwide depend on Medicaid and CHIP, but heavy administrative burden too often discourages schools from pursuing Medicaid payment for health services. This is particularly true for small, rural, and under-resourced schools. New guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) seeks to address this issue by offering states the chance

to adopt new billing and payment structures that make it easier for schools to receive payment for Medicaid-covered services.

School-based services (SBS) enhance early identification of health concerns and allow students and families to easily connect to a broad range of services. Specifically, SBS providers can help Medicaid-eligible students enroll in the program, can connect students' Medicaid-eligible family members with the program, and can offer care that reduces emergency room visits. In the case of rural or low-income communities, school may be one of the few places where a child can receive these services. As a result, SBS can promote health equity by bringing necessary health services to children in underserved communities.

CMS encourages states to adopt its new options. Click [here](#) to view the full guide from CMS.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Community Health Partners Enrollment Clinic



On July 28, TJC participated in the TennCare Health Fair hosted by Community Health Partners and the Amigos Foundation. In partnership with Family & Children’s Service, Latino Memphis, and Seedco, TJC applied several children for coverage and assisted with renewals.

National Night Out



On August 1, TJC participated in National Night Out (NNO). NNO is an annual event recognized by 17,000 cities nationwide with the goal of promoting neighborhood safety by facilitating police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. The Hermitage Police Department hosted NNO at Pruitt Library, which featured 14 community organizations and saw 300 attendees. The celebration was marked by a children’s art show and performances by residents. TJC sponsored the event in partnership with the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency to award gift cards to art show participants and honor community members with the Rising Star Award for their dedication to children.

TJC IN THE NEWS

[Tennessee drops over 31,000 from Medicaid in one month as renewals resume](#)

FEDERAL UPDATES

Congressional Attempts to Repeal Public Charge Rule Threaten Immigrant Families



In September 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a rule which defined who is considered a “public charge.” Public charge was established by the Immigration Act of 1882, and it allows the government to deny lawful permanent residency to individuals who are predicted to become dependent on the government. The Trump Administration redefined the policy to expand the list of welfare programs that, if accessed, would deem an individual a public charge. Medicaid was part of the list. While the rule was struck down by several courts, many immigrants chose to forgo Medicaid benefits out of fear they would be labeled public charges. In its 2022 rule, DHS reversed this policy and returned to the regulations that historically received bipartisan support. Additionally, the Biden Administration definitively stated immigrants would not be penalized for accessing Medicaid. This rule was critical to alleviating fears that deterred immigrants from seeking out health care.

Some members of Congress, however, are looking to reinstate the policy implemented by the Trump administration. In May, the Senate passed a resolution 50-47 to overturn the 2022 rule. The House is expected to vote on the resolution soon. The Administration released a [statement](#) saying President Biden would veto the resolution if it passed in the House. Still, the mere attempt to overturn the 2022 rule threatens to incite fear among immigrants and dissuade them from accessing necessary medical care.

TN UPDATES

May Renewal Data Shows Procedural Disenrollment Rate Remains High



In May, approximately 83,000 Tennesseans were due for renewal. TennCare released data showing that more than 27,000 of these individuals lost coverage. Similar to April, 72 percent of those who lost coverage did so for procedural reasons such as not returning a renewal packet or responding to requests from TennCare.

Nearly 20,000 children have lost coverage so far, which represents 33 percent of all Tennesseans who have been terminated. This is concerning because many of these children likely remain eligible. During the last redetermination period, 128,000 children lost coverage.

To avoid disenrollment for eligible children, **it is important that TennCare has enrollees’ current address information.** If your address has changed, call TennCare at 1-855-259-0701 or make a change to your account online through the TennCare Connect portal.

WAYS TO TAKE ACTION TODAY

Partner with Insure Our Kids!



Insure Our Kids is a coalition bringing together the medical community and non-profit organizations to discuss policy and healthcare issues. Please join us! We need your voice! [Take our partner survey here.](#)

[Follow Insure Our Kids on Facebook](#) and [e-mail Shana Watkins](#) to learn more about the Insure Our Kids coalition.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Help Tennesseans Keep Their Health Coverage!

Tennessee has begun the year-long process of deciding which people can keep their health coverage under the TennCare or CoverKids programs. Over a million Tennesseans face a threat to their health care. Without help, hundreds of thousands – most of whom are children or adults with disabilities – will lose access to care. Individuals, organizations and businesses are needed to help fellow Tennesseans get through this process.

Call for Volunteers



Volunteers are needed to help individuals who cannot complete the process on their own. In the best traditions of the Volunteer State, all are invited to collaborate in a coordinated effort to help our neighbors. If you are interested in providing direct volunteer work with our organization, please [sign up here](#).

Ways to Keep Your Health Coverage!

If you are on TennCare, you may get a packet from TennCare saying they need updated information. This packet will probably be sent to you this year by mail. *If you don't respond you might lose your TennCare or CoverKids health insurance.*

What should you do right now?

Make sure TennCare has your correct address. You can do this online through your TennCare Connect portal (<https://tenncareconnect.tn.gov/>) or by calling TennCare Connect at 855-259-0701.

What should you do when you get the packet?

Fill it out and send it to TennCare as soon as you get it. Directions on where to send it will be in the packet. It is a good idea to keep proof that you sent it. For example, if you fax it, keep the fax receipt. If you need help filling out the packet, call us at (615) 255-0331.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Back to School Webinar

Thursday, August 24th
1pm CST / 2PM EST

In 2022 over 666,000 Tennessee children participated in the Nationals School Lunch Program (NSLP). School Meals are important to student health and well being especially for low-income students. Research shows that school meals can reduce food insecurity, obesity rates and poor health. We will discuss the importance of school meals, how it is connected to SNAP, what options schools are using to better reach students with healthy meals and how Tennessee can better serve children with school meals.

REGISTER HERE

KEEP UP WITH TJC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Tennessee Justice Center
115 Lafayette St
Nashville, TN 37210
United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).