Medicaid unwinding to begin soon; special enrollment period announced

The special rules that were put in place during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) to allow more people to get, and keep, BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid benefits will soon come to an end. The federal government announced the Public Health Emergency (PHE) will end on May 11, 2023.

The COVID-19 PHE allowed individuals to remain enrolled in their Medicaid plan to maintain public health and safety. Normally, Medicaid enrollees must provide updated information annually to ensure qualifications are met to stay in the program. However, the government allowed for special rules during the PHE, which meant Medicaid beneficiaries had continuous enrollment even if they didn't meet program criteria. When the PHE ends individuals who no longer meet the criteria for Medicaid will lose their coverage.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is preparing to "unwind" the special rules and resume the renewal process that was in place before the PHE. This means many individuals who are currently receiving Medicaid benefits will no longer be eligible and will be disenrolled. The process of ending the public health emergency has been referred to as the unwinding process. Learn more about the unwinding here.

Disenrollments will begin upon a beneficiary's identified renewal deadline if they no longer meet Medicaid requirements. Beneficiaries will be notified of their renewal deadline by a letter this month. It is possible a beneficiary would not be disenrolled until later in 2023 depending on the date DHS assigns them to renew. The first health care renewals are due by June 30.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a special enrollment period (SEP) for individuals who lose their Medicaid coverage due to the end of the PHE. The SEP, referred to as the "Unwinding SEP," will occur from March 31, 2023, through July 31, 2024. Eligible individuals must meet the criteria for an Affordable Care Act (ACA) plan and have lost their Medicaid coverage.

Security Health Plan offers many affordable individual and family plans with great coverage, provider networks and added perks. In fact, four out of five consumers qualify for a plan less than $10 on the Marketplace with financial help.

Security Health Plan has outreach planned to affected beneficiaries to encourage them to take action and to assist with any questions.