

WGIUPD

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
DIVISION: Office of Health Insurance Programs

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TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Lisa Sbrana, Director
Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration

SUBJECT: Suspension of Medicaid for Justice Involved Youth

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/2023

CONTACT PERSON: Local District Support Unit
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This General Information System (GIS) message is to inform local departments of social services (LDSS) of a procedural change required by the federal Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act of 2018 (SUPPORT Act). The SUPPORT Act requires Medicaid eligibility not be terminated for justice involved youth(s) because they are an inmate of a public institution.

Currently, Medicaid coverage is discontinued upon admission to an Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) secure or limited secure facility because these facilities are considered Medicaid ineligible settings. The Support Act requires states to maintain Medicaid eligibility for youth incarcerated in a public institution and therefore coverage must be suspended instead of discontinued.

Effective January 1, 2023, applicable juvenile involved youth, who are admitted to an OCFS secure, or limited secure facility will have their Medicaid coverage suspended with either coverage code 26 (Inpatient hospital only coverage) or 07 (Medicaid Coverage for Treatment of Inpatient Emergency Medical Condition) upon notification of incarceration.

The OCFS will notify the Department of Health (DOH) of juveniles under the age of 21 and individuals enrolled in Medicaid under the former foster care eligibility group who have been incarcerated in an OCFS secure or limited secure facilities. Additionally, OCFS will notify DOH of expected discharge to allow for full coverage to be reinstated and ensure access to care for youth returning to the community. Local district support staff will contact local districts when cases require suspension and reinstatement.

Please direct any questions regarding this GIS message to your local district support liaison.