

WSR 24-17-118

PROPOSED RULES

HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

[Filed August 19, 2024, 11:06 a.m.]

Original Notice.

Preproposal statement of inquiry was filed as WSR 24-14-135.

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 182-504-0015 Washington apple health—Certification periods for categorically needy programs, and 182-505-0225 Children's Washington apple health with premiums—Calculation and determination of premium amount.

Hearing Location(s): On September 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The health care authority (HCA) holds public hearings virtually without a physical meeting place. To attend the virtual public hearing, you must register in advance https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_M78jsSfQ7q0abAHTCc3iQ. If the link above opens with an error message, please try using a different browser. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the public hearing.

Date of Intended Adoption: Not sooner than September 25, 2024.

Submit Written Comments to: HCA Rules Coordinator, P.O. Box 42716, Olympia, WA 98504-2716, email arc@hca.wa.gov, fax 360-586-9727, beginning August 22, 2024, 8:00 a.m., by September 24, 2024, by 11:59 p.m.

Assistance for Persons with Disabilities: Contact Johanna Larson, phone 360-725-1349, fax 360-586-9727, telecommunication relay service 711, email Johanna.Larson@hca.wa.gov, by September 13, 2024.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: HCA is amending WAC 182-504-0015 and 182-505-0225 so that HCA does not terminate children's health insurance program (CHIP) coverage for nonpayment of premiums during a child's continuous eligibility period and does not condition or delay enrollment on payment of unpaid premiums.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: See purpose.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: HCA, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Brian Jensen, P.O. Box 42716, Olympia, WA 98504-2716, 360-725-0815; Implementation and Enforcement: Emily Good, P.O. Box 42722, Olympia, WA 98504-2722, 360-725-0920.

A school district fiscal impact statement is not required under RCW 28A.305.135.

A cost-benefit analysis is not required under RCW 34.05.328. RCW 34.05.328 does not apply to HCA rules unless requested by the joint administrative rules review committee or applied voluntarily.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act because the proposal:

Is exempt under RCW 19.85.061 because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Citation of the specific federal statute or regulation and description of the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted: 42 C.F.R. 457.570. Failure to amend state rules to comply with this federal regulation could result in the loss of federal funds.

Is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(4).

Explanation of exemptions: The proposed rule pertains to client program eligibility and does not impose costs on businesses.

Scope of exemption for rule proposal:

Is fully exempt.

August 19, 2024
Wendy Barcus
Rules Coordinator

OTS-5570.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-23-057, filed 11/8/23, effective 12/9/23)

WAC 182-504-0015 Washington apple health—Certification periods for categorically needy programs. (1) A certification period is the period of time we determine that you are eligible for a categorically needy (CN) Washington apple health program. Unless otherwise stated in this section, the certification period begins on the first day of the month of application and continues through the end of the last month of the certification period.

(2) Newborn coverage begins on the child's date of birth and continues through the end of the month of the child's first birthday.

(3) If you are eligible for apple health based on pregnancy, the certification period continues through the last day of the month the pregnancy ends. After-pregnancy coverage begins the first day of the month, following the end of the pregnancy, and ends the last day of the 12th month from the time after-pregnancy coverage began.

(4) If you are newly eligible for apple health coverage and had a pregnancy end within the last 12 months, your certification period for after-pregnancy coverage:

(a) Begins the first day of the month you are eligible; and

(b) Ends the last day of the 12th month following the end of your pregnancy.

(5) If you are eligible for the refugee program, the certification period ends at the end of the 12th month following your date of entry to the United States.

(6) If you are a child under age six receiving apple health for kids without a premium, your certification period ends the last day of the month of your sixth birthday.

(7) If you are eligible for newborn coverage, your coverage continues through the last day of the month of your first birthday. Apple health for kids coverage begins automatically on the first day of the month after your newborn coverage ends and the certification period ends the last day of the month of your sixth birthday.

(8) For all other CN coverage, the certification period is 12 months.

(9) If you are a child, eligibility is continuous throughout the certification period regardless of a change in circumstances, unless ~~((a required premium (described in WAC 182-505-0225) is not paid for three consecutive months, or))~~ you:

(a) Turn age 19;

(b) Move out-of-state; or

(c) Die.

(10) When you turn 19, the certification period ends after the redetermination process described in WAC 182-504-0125 is completed, even if the 12-month period is not over, unless:

(a) You are receiving inpatient services (described in WAC 182-514-0230) on the last day of the month you turn 19;

(b) The inpatient stay continues into the following month or months; and

(c) You remain eligible except for turning age 19.

(11) A retroactive certification period is described in WAC 182-504-0005.

(12) Coverage under premium-based programs included in apple health for kids as described in chapter 182-505 WAC begins no sooner than the month after creditable coverage ends.

OTS-5571.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-12-018, filed 5/30/17, effective 6/30/17)

WAC 182-505-0225 Children's Washington apple health with premiums—Calculation and determination of premium amount. (1) For the purposes of this chapter, "**premium**" means an amount paid for health care coverage under WAC 182-505-0215.

(2) Premium requirement. (~~Eligibility for~~) The Washington apple health premium-based program under WAC 182-505-0215 requires payment of a monthly premium.

(a) The first monthly premium is due in the month following the determination of eligibility.

(b) There is no premium requirement for health care coverage received in the month eligibility is determined or in any prior month.

(c) A child who is American Indian or Alaska native is exempt from the monthly premium requirement.

(3) Monthly premium amount.

(a) The premium amount for the medical assistance unit (MAU) is based on countable income under chapter 182-509 WAC and the number of people in the MAU under chapter 182-506 WAC.

(b) The premium amount is as follows:

(i) If the MAU's countable income exceeds (~~two hundred ten~~) 210 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) but does not exceed (~~two hundred sixty~~) 260 percent of the FPL, the monthly premium for each child is \$20.

(ii) If the MAU's countable income exceeds (~~two hundred sixty~~) 260 percent of the FPL but does not exceed (~~three hundred twelve~~) 312 percent of the FPL, the monthly premium for each child is \$30.

(iii) The medicaid agency charges a monthly premium for no more than two children per household.

(iv) Payment of the full premium is required. Partial payments cannot be designated for a specific child or month.

(v) Any third party may pay the premium on behalf of the household. Failure of a third party to pay the premium does not eliminate the obligation of the household to pay past due premiums.

(c) A change that affects the premium amount takes effect the month after the change is reported.

(4) Nonpayment of premiums.

~~((a) Premium-based coverage ends for all children in the household if the required premiums are not paid for three consecutive months.~~

~~(b) Premium-based coverage is restored back to the month coverage ended if the unpaid premiums are fully paid before the certification period ends.~~

~~(c) The household may reapply for premium-based coverage ninety days after the coverage ended for nonpayment.~~

~~(d))~~ The agency writes off past-due premiums after ~~((twelve))~~ 12 months.