



MEPD and TW Bulletin 21-20

Date: October 8, 2021

To: Eligibility Services Supervisors and Staff
Program Managers
Regional Directors
Regional Attorneys
Hearings Officers

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
State Office 2115

Subject: COVID-19 Update: Pending Medicaid Eligibility Determination Groups (EDGs) with Continuous Eligibility

The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- [Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities Handbook \(MEPDH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins>;
- [Texas Works Handbook \(TWH\)](http://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins) at <http://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins>.

COVID-19 Update: Pending Medicaid EDGs with Continuous Eligibility

Background

On January 27, 2020, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared that a public health emergency exists nationwide due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Additionally, on March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott also declared a state of disaster for all counties in Texas due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

COVID-19 Policy

[Texas Works Medicaid, MEPD and HTW](#)

HR 6201 (Families First Coronavirus Response Act), requires states to maintain Medicaid coverage for most people active or certified for Medicaid as of or after March 18, 2020.

Do not deny a person receiving Medicaid as of March 18, 2020 unless the person:

- Voluntarily withdraws;
- Dies; or
- Moves out of state.

A person who is determined eligible for Medicaid as of or after March 18, 2020, must not be denied Medicaid coverage except for one of the reasons listed above. Previous guidance regarding continuous Medicaid eligibility provided in [MEPD and Texas Works Bulletin 20-30](#) still applies.

HHSC continues to waive the interview requirement for Parents and Caretaker Relatives Medicaid at application and renewal as explained in [MEPD and Texas Works Bulletin 20-28 #1](#).

COVID-19 Policy Update

[Texas Works Medicaid and MEPD](#)

There are no changes to the current COVID-19 policy. TIERS functionality for pending Medicaid EDGs is updated.

Automation

Effective Monday, October 11, 2021, TIERS functionality for pending Medicaid EDGs prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) will resume. Staff no longer need to follow the steps outlined in [MEPD and Texas Works Bulletin 20-21 #1](#) to pend for verification and generate a Form H1020, Request for Information or Action.

Staff must pend for verification when processing any case actions for active Medicaid EDGs following regular policy.

- If the required verification is returned, staff must update the appropriate Logical Units of Work (LUWs) in TIERS.
- If required verification is not provided, staff must continue to follow policy related to COVID-19 continuous eligibility for Medicaid. Medicaid eligibility is maintained if the EDG is not denied for one of the three reasons provided above.

Note: During the PHE, Medicaid EDGs that were pended for non-financial or income verification will not be “re-pended” if the person did not provide the requested verification.

TIERS will automatically waive the interview requirement for Parents and Caretaker Relatives Medicaid. Staff do not need to make any entries on the Appointment page in TIERS for Parents and Caretake Relatives Medicaid.

Correspondence

Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook

Handbook updates are not required.

Training

Training is not required at this time.

Effective Date

This policy is effective with the implementation of TIERS Release 110.2 currently scheduled for October 9, 2021.