



MEPD and TW Broadcast

Date: February 09, 2023

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: Processing Transfers to Medicare Savings Program

COVID-19: Processing Transfers to Medicare Savings Program

Medical Programs

HHSC is providing the following temporary guidance regarding policies and procedures for processing case actions that will result in a reduction of benefits.

Based on revised federal guidance due to a recent court ruling regarding allowable transfers to other Medicaid programs during the period in which states must maintain Medicaid coverage, a Medicaid recipient cannot be denied full Medicaid and transferred to a Medicare Savings Program (MSP) or transferred from the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program to a lower-level MSP (Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB) or Qualifying Individuals (QI-1)).

When processing a redetermination, or a change in circumstances that is initiated on or before March 31, 2023, staff must **not** dispose the case action if the recipient will be:

- denied full Medicaid and certified for MSP only; or
- denied QMB and certified for SLMB or QI-1.

These recipients must remain on their current Type of Assistance (TOA) and the current level of benefits must be maintained.

Staff must complete the following steps when processing case actions that result in the termination of full Medicaid and a certification for MSP only or a transfer from QMB to a lower-level MSP.

- Run EDBC.
- Do not dispose the full Medicaid EDG that TIERS shows as terminated or a QMB EDG that is transferring to a lower-level MSP.
- Dispose all associated EDGs.
 - ▶ TIERS will not move the case to Ongoing mode because the Medicaid EDG has not been disposed.
- Document the following in case comments: "Worker suspending case to maintain Medicaid EDG XXXX due to the COVID-19 pandemic."
- Assign the TLM task to your Designated Holding Queue.
- Set the task(s) for the Medicaid EDG to Suspend – Other in EWMS.

Automation changes to maintain the Medicaid TOA without having to suspend EDGs are still in development. Staff should continue to suspend any Medicaid EDGs in EWMS that are set to transfer to an MSP TOA. More information about how to process the suspended EDGs will be provided at a later date.

This policy is effective immediately. Staff will be notified when these policies and procedures no longer apply.