



North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance
Recipient Services EIS

1985 Umstead Drive – 2512 Mail Service Center - Raleigh, N.C. 27699-2512
Courier Number 56-20-06

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Nina M. Yeager, Director
(919) 857-4019

July 12, 2002

Re: NC Health Choice Freeze

Dear County Director of Social Services:

North Carolina has been so successful in its efforts to enroll uninsured children that statewide enrollment reached 84,816 children by the end of June. This enrollment level clearly reflects your commitment and hard work in assuring health care benefits for children. As you know, NCHC is not an entitlement program and funding for this fiscal year is insufficient to maintain the current rate of growth.

This letter is to advise you that an enrollment freeze to the NC Health Choice program will be implemented on September 1, 2002. This means that we will be unable to approve those who apply on or after September 1, 2002. We will continue to cover all children enrolled on that date or whose families filed an application prior to September 1, 2002. Re-enrollments will continue and families completing the re-enrollment process timely will not lose benefits for their children.

If a Medicaid recipient returns his reenrollment form in August and is now eligible for NCHC, the county must key this change prior to September 1 to ensure the children will continue to receive benefits. If the county is unable to key this change until after September 1, then these children will need to be denied and placed on the NCHC waiting list.

Current NC Health Choice recipients will be mailed a letter on or about August 1, 2002, informing them of the freeze. The letter (attached in English and Spanish) advises recipients of the following:

- Children on NC Health Choice will continue to receive benefits for the length of their enrollment period.
- Children will continue to receive NC Health Choice if the children are re-enrolled and they qualify.
- If the children are not re-enrolled, the children will be dropped from NC Health Choice and their caretaker must reapply. If eligible, the children will go on a waiting list until the program re-opens.

Dear County Director of Social Services

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Counties will receive additional NC Health Choice freeze implementation instructions. In the meantime, continue to accept and process all applications in the same manner as you have been since October 1998.

Please make your local outreach coalition and interest groups aware of the upcoming cap on enrollment. If you have questions, call the Medicaid Eligibility Unit at (919) 857-4019.

Sincerely,

Nina M. Yeager

Attachment

August 1, 2002



Dear NC Health Choice Enrollee:

You may have heard reports that enrollment in North Carolina Health Choice for Children will be frozen in September 2002. Health Choice is a health insurance program for children; unfortunately there is limited funding. This means there is a limit on the number of children the program can cover. We have now enrolled the maximum number of children possible within our budget.

This letter is to assure you that your children will continue to receive health insurance benefits for the length of their enrollment period. Your children will also continue to receive health insurance benefits after that if you re-enroll by the date required and your children still qualify. The freeze on the program means that there will not be *NEW* children enrolling in Health Choice until the program is opened again.

Your children were originally enrolled in the program for one year and will need to re-enroll at the appropriate time. Take a minute right now and look at your children's Health Choice insurance cards. The last month your children will be eligible to receive benefits is the month before their "termination date." Approximately two months before this date, you will receive a re-enrollment form in the mail. You will need to quickly fill out the form, attach proof of income as requested and return these materials to your county department of social services (DSS) by the date specified. If you do not receive this form, contact your county DSS. It may mean that they do not have your current address on file. Please remember to notify your county DSS whenever your address changes.

If you re-enroll in a timely manner and your children continue to be eligible, your children will continue to be enrolled in Health Choice. If you do not return the form, your children will be dropped from Health Choice. If your children are dropped, you must reapply. Based on this new application, if your children are eligible, they will be placed on a waiting list. At the point we can enroll your children again, you will be contacted.

If you also have children on Health Check (Medicaid), we want you to know that these changes do not affect the Health Check Program in any way.

If you have any questions, please call the NC Family Health Resource Line at 1-800-367-2229 (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.).

Division of Medical Assistance

Lea el reverso de esta carta en español

1 de agosto 2002



Estimada familia registrada en NC Health Choice:

Posiblemente ya escuchó que las inscripciones para el programa NC Health Choice se detendrán a partir de septiembre 2002. Desafortunadamente, el seguro médico Health Choice, funciona con una cantidad limitada de fondos. Por esta razón existe un límite en la cantidad de niños que pueden ser cubiertos con este seguro. Para estos momentos ya hemos inscrito el número máximo de niños que nuestro presupuesto nos permite cubrir.

Por medio de esta carta se le asegura que sus niños continuarán recibiendo el seguro de salud si vuelve a inscribirlos antes de que se termine el periodo por el que están aprobados y si todavía califican para el programa. Comenzando en septiembre, no se aprobarán inscripciones nuevas a Health Choice hasta que el programa se vuelva a abrir.

Originalmente sus niños fueron inscritos en el programa Health Choice por un año. Para que sus niños pueden seguir recibiendo seguro de salud a través de Health Choice, usted tendrá que volver a inscribirlos antes de que se cumpla el año. Tome un minuto para revisar las tarjetas de salud Health Choice. Busque la fecha en que termina el seguro, que en inglés lee: "termination date". El último mes que sus niños pueden recibir el seguro será el mes antes de que termine el seguro, "termination date". Aproximadamente dos meses antes de esta fecha, usted recibirá por correo un formulario para inscribir a sus niños. Llene el formulario, junte comprobantes de ingresos, y envíe ambos al departamento de servicios sociales en su condado antes de la fecha indicada. Si no recibe el formulario, comuníquese con el departamento de servicios sociales en su condado. Puede ser que el condado no tenga su domicilio actual. Por favor acuerdese de notificar al condado cada vez que cambie de domicilio.

Si usted vuelve a inscribir a sus niños a tiempo y todavía califican, ellos podrán continuar recibiendo seguro de salud Health Choice. Si usted no envía por correo el formulario para la inscripción, el seguro de salud de sus niños se terminará y usted tendrá que volver a solicitar. Si vuelve a solicitar y sus niños siguen siendo elegibles, se les pondrá en una lista de espera hasta que el programa se vuelva a abrir.

Los cambios de Health Choice no afectan de ninguna manera a niños que reciben Health Check, (Medicaid).

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta acerca de estos cambios, por favor llame a la Línea de Recursos de Salud Familiar de Carolina del Norte al siguiente número gratuito: 1-800-367-2229 (de lunes a viernes, entre 9 a.m – 7 p.m.)

División de Asistencia Médica

See the reverse side of this form in English