

NC Health Choice Move to Medicaid Questions and Answers

North Carolina Session Law 2022-74 directs the NC Department of Health and Human Services to combine the NC Health Choice Program with the NC Medicaid benefit plan. As of April 1, 2023, all NC Health Choice beneficiaries with active eligibility will be moved to Medicaid, providing them access to Medicaid services that are not currently covered under NC Health Choice.

WILL NC HEALTH CHOICE MEMBERS WHO ARE MOVING TO MEDICAID NOW HAVE ACCESS TO THE VACCINE FOR CHILDREN (VFC) PROGRAM?

Yes, NC Health Choice members when they move to Medicaid will have access to all Medicaid programs include the VFC program.

HOW WILL THE “TRANSITION OF CARE” WORK FOR THE 6-18 YEAR-OLDS WHO MOVE FROM NC HEALTH CHOICE TO MEDICAID?

For example, what will happen to prior authorization periods that are in place but not yet concluded in NC Health Choice – particularly since Behavioral Health and Mental Health services are run through a different utilization management process and have different reimbursement rates?

Please reference the following bulletin for more information: [NC Health Choice Move to Medicaid: Timeline for Claims Adjudication and Process for Prior Approvals | NC Medicaid \(ncdhhs.gov\)](#).

Active NC Health Choice prior approvals (PAs) will remain active and transition to NC Medicaid as of April 1, 2023. All other criteria within the PA will remain the same, but the health benefit will change to NC Medicaid. NC Health Choice rates currently align with the Medicaid reimbursement rates. The NC Health Choice move to Medicaid transition will not affect current reimbursement rates.

- Will new authorizations need to be completed?
 - Active authorizations prior to April 1, 2023
 - will automatically transition to the Medicaid benefit plan. If a provider is requesting a new service after April 1, 2023, the provider will be required to submit a PA request under the Medicaid benefit plan.
- Will the clock start over for covered services when a youth transitions to Medicaid?
 - No, the clock will not start over. In respect to visit limitations, units accumulated under NC Health Choice will not start over when the beneficiary is transitioned to Medicaid. Active NC Health Choice Prior Approvals will be transitioned over from NC Health Choice to Medicaid on April 1, 2023, to

avoid providers having to resubmit PA's for beneficiaries and also to ensure continuity of care for beneficiaries during the transition. The active PA's will transfer to Medicaid, and the number of services remaining under that PA will stay the same.

- If an NC Health Choice enrollee's primary care provider (PCP) does not elect to become a Medicaid-enrolled provider also, will the youth need to work with the Enrollment Broker to select a new PCP?
 - NC Health Choice only providers, whether in NC Medicaid Direct or NC Medicaid Managed Care, cannot be designated as a PCP and do not have assigned enrollees.

IN RELATION TO PAS AND OTHER SERVICE COVERAGE DURING THE NC HEALTH CHOICE - TO - MEDICAID TRANSITION PERIOD, WILL THERE BE ANY CONSIDERATIONS THAT PROVIDERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FOR BILLING/REIMBURSEMENT? WHAT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES WILL PROVIDERS WHO SEE FORMER NC HEALTH CHOICE ENROLLEES NEED TO FOLLOW? WILL THEY BE IDENTICAL?.

Active NC Health Choice PAs will be transitioned to Medicaid on April 1, 2023. As for Billing and Reimbursement, for North Carolina Health Choice fee-for-service claims, they will have 365 days to initially submit the claims under NC Health Choice after the April 1, 2023 launch date. For NC Medicaid Managed Care claims, please refer to this bulletin for the breakdown of timely filing guidelines: [NC Health Choice Move to Medicaid: Timeline for Claims Adjudication and Process for Prior Approvals | NC Medicaid \(ncdhhs.gov\)](#).

The policies and procedures for providers for NC Medicaid Direct beneficiaries after April 1, 2023, will continue to come from NC Medicaid clinical coverage policies. For providers who are only currently enrolled with NC Health Choice and not Medicaid, they should be aware, as listed in the bulletin above, that their status will update to terminated in NCTracks as of April 1, 2023, unless they also choose to enroll with Medicaid. NC Medicaid encourages them to enroll with Medicaid.

