

THE MEDICARE CRISIS

Help Your Clients and Protect Your Practice



GORDONMARKETING

The Medicare Crisis – Info You Need to Know

Help Your Clients and Protect Your Practice

What's Happening?

- In January, the Biden administration formally [extended](#) for 90 days its finding that the U.S. faces a public health emergency. But without another extension to the provision added to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) that offered states more Medicaid funding in exchange for continuous enrollment during the public health emergency, sweeping Medicaid relief ended in mid-April. Which means states will need to resume eligibility status checks even amid the jump in recipients.
- **Now as many as 15 million people could be thrown off Medicaid.** The issue is fraught because some low-income people may lose coverage simply by falling through the cracks because they are unaware they must provide income verification to continue their coverage under the federal program.

How Redeterminations Will Work...

- Currently, CMS allows up to 12 months to initiate and 14 months to complete all redeterminations. The KFF reported that 40 states plan on taking 9 to 12 months to process redeterminations; four states plan on taking 6 to 9 months; and four states plan on taking 3 to 6 months.
- To prepare for redeterminations and to avoid large losses of coverage, 41 states plan on voluntarily following up with enrollees when they are at risk for a coverage loss; 46 states are working on updating enrollees' mailing addresses; and 30 states plan on boosting their staff capacity by approving overtime and hiring new workers.

If a Member Loses Their Medicaid Eligibility...

- They move into a "deemed" eligibility status for DSNP for six months. During this grace period, the member is responsible for the Medicare cost-sharing portion, which includes copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, and premiums.
- Our DSNP plans will continue to cover Medicare benefits for a grace period (also known as a deeming period) of up to six months if a member loses Medicaid eligibility. The **grace period** begins the first day of the month after we learn of the member's loss of dual eligible status. If at the end of the six-month grace period, the member does not regain dual eligible status and they have not enrolled in a different plan, they will disenroll from our plan.

If a Member is Within the Six-Month Grace Period of Continued Eligibility...

- Members will be responsible to pay Medicare premiums and cost shares, not the carrier or the state. Exceptions apply in AL, FL, and TX.

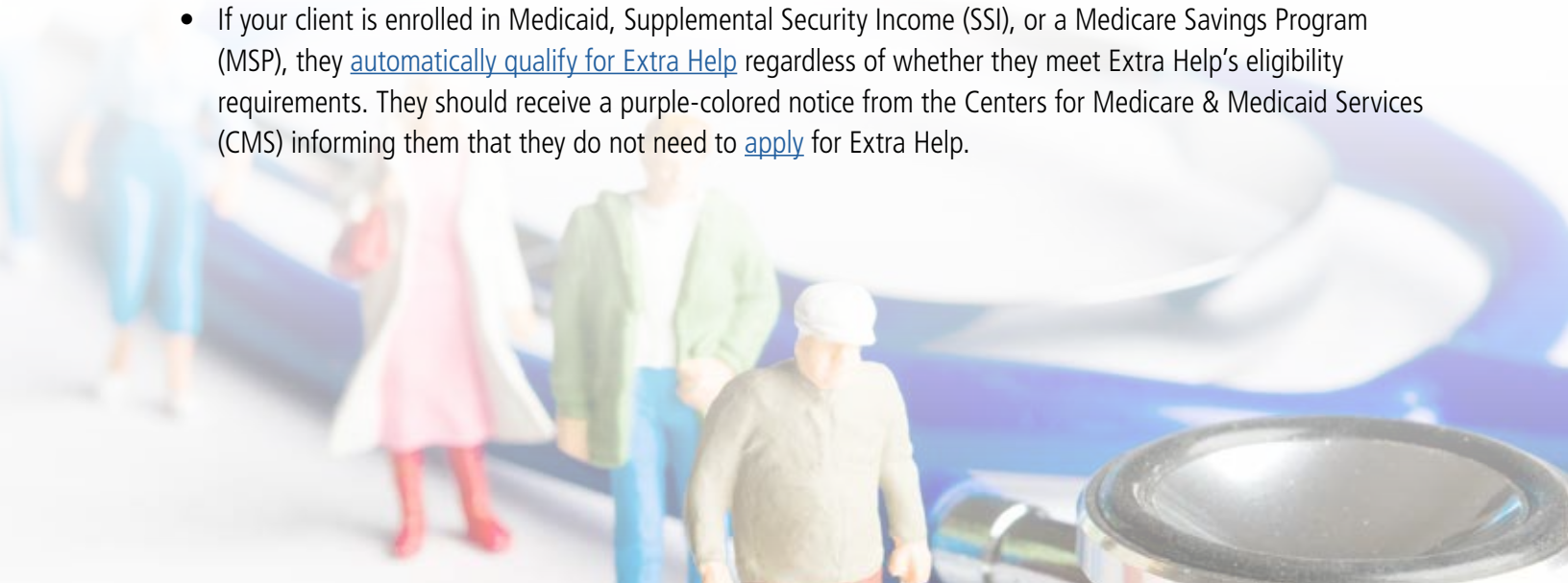


Extra Help...

- Members may also be subject to Part D premiums and Part D cost-shares based on their level of **Extra Help**.
- Just because your client loses their Medicaid and therefore their DSNP plan does not mean they will lose their “Extra Help” (LIS).
- If they have Medicaid, they will automatically have Extra Help (LIS) But...
- Having Extra Help (LIS) does not mean they will have Medicaid.

Extra Help Eligibility

- If your client’s monthly income is up to \$1,719 in 2022 (\$2,309 for couples) and assets below specified limits, they may be eligible for Extra Help (see the [Extra Help income and asset limit chart](#) for details). These limits include a \$20 income disregard that the Social Security Administration (SSA) automatically subtracts from monthly unearned income (e.g., retirement income). Even if income or assets are above the eligibility limits, your client could still qualify for Extra Help because certain types of income and assets may not be counted, in addition to the \$20 mentioned above.
- If your client is enrolled in Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or a Medicare Savings Program (MSP), they [automatically qualify for Extra Help](#) regardless of whether they meet Extra Help’s eligibility requirements. They should receive a purple-colored notice from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) informing them that they do not need to [apply](#) for Extra Help.



What To Do Next...

- Be proactive.
- Reach out to all you DSNP clients.
- Have them be on the lookout or even have them reach out to their state Medicaid or their DSNP carrier.
- If they are losing their Medicaid help them find the most affordable MAPD.

WANT HELP PUTTING THIS INFO INTO ACTION?

Let Gordon Marketing earn your business. Call our Medicare Team at 1-800-388-8342.
Learn more about us at: www.gordonmarketing.com.

