



Nebraska Medicaid Work Requirements Medically Frail and SUD Treatment Program Exemptions May 1, 2026

Starting May 1, 2026, Nebraska Medicaid will use a streamlined process to determine whether individuals qualify for an exemption from Medicaid work requirements due to being medically frail or participating in a substance use disorder (SUD) treatment program.

How Nebraska Medicaid Determines Exemptions

For Existing Enrollees

Nebraska Medicaid will review available medical claims data approximately 90 days before the end of a member's eligibility period. If qualifying medical conditions or treatment indicators are identified based on diagnosis and procedure codes, the individual will be treated as exempt without needing to take additional action.

If Nebraska Medicaid does not have medical claims for existing enrollees with qualifying medical conditions, the individual will need to submit a self-declaration and provide basic information about their medically frail condition or SUD treatment provider.

For New Applicants

Individuals may self-declare that they are medically frail or enrolled in an SUD treatment program. Individuals will be asked to provide basic information about their medically frail condition or SUD treatment provider. No additional documentation is required at this time.

Individual Declaration Form

Medically Frail

For existing enrollees and new applicants that need to use the individual declaration form to claim the medically frail exemption, the following information must be submitted:

- Description of health condition
- Name, address, and telephone number of the doctor or healthcare provider
- If services for the identified health condition were provided while the individual was enrolled in Medicaid

SUD Treatment

For existing enrollees and new applicants that need to use the individual declaration form to claim the SUD treatment exemption, the following information must be submitted:

- Name of treatment facility
- Contact name and phone number at the treatment facility
- The dates services were provided at the treatment facility
- If services for the identified health condition were provided while the individual was enrolled in Medicaid

No additional documentation is required to be submitted with the individual declaration form. The individual declaration form may be submitted using one of the following methods:

- Online: at <https://iserve.nebraska.gov/>
- By mail: P.O. Box 2992
Omaha, NE 68103-2992
- By phone:
 - Phone Number: (855) 632-7633 (select option 3)
 - Lincoln Phone Number: (402) 473-7000 (select option 3)
 - Omaha Phone Number: (402) 595-1178 (select option 3)

All declarations are made under penalty of perjury. This means individuals must provide truthful and accurate information when reporting a medical condition or participation in an SUD treatment program.

How Conditions Are Identified

Medically Frail

DHHS staff have reviewed thousands of medical diagnosis and procedure codes, including ICD-10, CPT, and HCPCS codes, to identify conditions that may qualify an individual as medically frail or participating in an SUD treatment program. This review includes physical health conditions, mental health conditions, and substance use disorders, and considers the severity and impact of each condition.

DHHS staff will continue to review and update these codes over time as clinical guidance evolves, additional data becomes available, and federal direction is clarified. Updates will be reflected on the Medicaid work requirements website. Please reference [Nebraska Medicaid Work Requirements - Medically Frail and SUD Conditions](#).

SUD Treatment

DHHS review of claims data and declaration forms will include identifying individuals who have participated in a qualified drug or alcohol treatment program. Nebraska will identify qualified drug or alcohol treatment programs using the same criteria used in the [Nebraska 1115\(a\) demonstration waiver](#) for substance use treatment programs. This criteria includes inpatient and outpatient treatment options across the continuum of care.

Federal and Statutory Basis

This approach aligns with federal requirements under Section 71119 of the Social Security Act, which defines individuals who are medically frail or have special medical needs. These include individuals with substance use disorders, disabling mental disorders, serious or complex medical conditions, or conditions that significantly limit daily activities including physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities. Individuals participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program are also included under federal law.

Nebraska Medicaid's use of claims data and medical coding is designed to operationalize these federal definitions in a consistent, objective, and administratively efficient manner while minimizing burden on applicants and enrollees.

Future Updates

Nebraska Medicaid will continue to fine-tune its verification processes as additional data sources become available. Over time, the State will move from self-declaration to more automated verification methods consistent with federal guidance.