

## Legislative Session Update

Nebraska is introducing several new legislative bills to enhance Medicaid services, aiming to improve healthcare access and quality. These changes reflect Nebraska's commitment to addressing diverse healthcare needs and ensuring fair pay for providers.

**LB62:** Provider Coverage of Translation & Interpretation Services (Effective Date: July 1, 2024)

**LB204:** Provide for Reimbursement for Pharmacy Dispensing Fees (Effective Date: July 1, 2024)

**LB358:** Increase Dental Services Reimbursement (Effective Date: July 1, 2024)

**LB857:** Nebraska Prenatal Plus Program (Effective Date: October 1, 2024)

**LB905:** Medical Respite Care (Effective Date: October 1, 2025)

**LB1087:** Hospital Quality And Access Assessment Act (Effective Date: March 24, 2024 - when signed)

**LB1215:** Coverage of Breast Pumps & Lactation Counseling (Effective Date: January 1, 2025)



## iServe

On October 23, 2023, Nebraska launched 'iServe', a new online application portal for benefits. This makes it easier for Nebraskans and community partners to access resources and support. People can apply for many types of help, like food assistance, utility support, healthcare, and childcare, all in one simple, user-friendly place.

iServe data from October 16, 2023, to April 10, 2024.

Total Applications: 56,735

- Integrated Application: 23%
- Medicaid Only: 28%
- Economic Assistance (EA) Applications: 49%

Other Interesting Metrics:

- Mobile Applications: 28%
- Spanish Applications: 6%
- Guest Applications: 15%

iServe  
Nebraska

Learn more at <https://iserve.nebraska.gov/>

## Dental Update

In 2024, Nebraska Medicaid has introduced significant updates to its dental care program.

Changes include management by three health plans, removal of the \$750 annual dental benefit maximum, and coverage for asymptomatic wisdom tooth extraction. Denture treatment reimbursement, streamlined credentialing, and further integrating public health dental hygienists.

Additionally, **LB358** will increase dental services reimbursement rates by 12.5% starting July 1, 2024.



Additional information can be found at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Dental-Care.aspx>

## Telehealth Services

The updated telehealth guidance outlined in Provider Bulletin 23-38, effective after December 31, 2023, emphasizes patient safety, accessibility, and clinically appropriate care. Providers must adhere to relevant laws, maintain accurate documentation, and ensure telehealth services are delivered appropriately.

Information on covered services is available on the Medicaid Provider Rates and Fee Schedule webpage, and specific place of service codes and modifiers are required for accurate billing and compliance.



Find Provider Bulletin 23-28: Guidance on Telehealth after December 31, 2023 at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Medicaid-Provider-Bulletins.aspx>.

## End of Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwind

The Nebraska Medicaid Maintenance of Eligibility (MOE) Unwind ended on April 30, 2024. During the COVID-19 pandemic, DHHS had not ended anyone's coverage. DHHS will have reviewed Medicaid renewals over a fourteen (14) month "unwinding" period from March 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024. Staff will continue to review until all Medicaid renewals are completed.

Learn more about the Public Health Emergency at [DHHS.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-MOE.aspx](https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-MOE.aspx).

If you are found to be no longer eligible, Nebraska Medicaid may send your information to the federal marketplace (also known as [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov)). The federal marketplace will help the member apply for low cost coverage.



## Continuous Eligibility for Mothers and Children

Starting January 1, 2024, Nebraska Medicaid extended postpartum care coverage from 60 days to a full year, ensuring ongoing access to check-ups, screenings, and support for new mothers. This change helps moms focus on their health without insurance worries. More information is available <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Maternal-Health.aspx>.



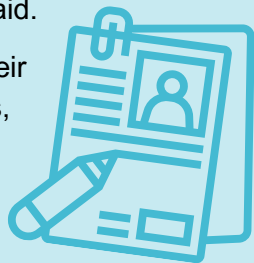
Additionally, children's Medicaid coverage now lasts 12 months instead of 6, regardless of most changes in their circumstances. This extension provides uninterrupted access to essential healthcare, simplifying the process for families and providers. Learn more <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/Child%20CE%20FAQ.pdf>.

## Loss of Coverage

If a member loses coverage or thinks they might be eligible, Medicaid is always open. Nebraskans can apply at any time if they lose coverage or if their situation has changed and they think they may be eligible for Medicaid.

We recommend that members update their personal information, report any changes, and see when their renewal date is by contacting ACCESSNebraska at:

- Online at [ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov](https://ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov)
- Email at [DHHS.ANDICenter@nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.ANDICenter@nebraska.gov)
- Fax at (402) 742-2351
- Over the phone by calling ACCESS Nebraska at:
  - Omaha: (402) 595-1178
  - Lincoln: (402) 473-7000
  - Toll-Free: (855) 632-7633
  - TDD: (402) 471-7256



## Spring 2024 Listening Tour

Throughout April and May 2024, Nebraska Medicaid held 13 meetings statewide in 11 cities and two virtual options to get feedback from providers, members, and advocates about changes to the Medicaid program.

These sessions allow people to talk directly with leaders from Nebraska's Medicaid program and the managed care organizations (MCOs). Nebraska Medicaid is dedicated to working with stakeholders to address concerns and find ways to improve the program. By working together, we can find solutions and improve the health of our community.

To stay updated and learn more about Medicaid listening tours, please visit <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/MLTC-Listening-Tour.aspx>.