

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

“This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Nebraska Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.”

Pursuant to
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-901.03

To: Nebraska Medicaid Managed Care Plans
From: Drew Gonshorowski, Director *DG*
Date: May 1, 2026
Re: Changes to Hospital-Based Presumptive Eligibility Determinations

This health plan advisory is being issued to the Nebraska Medicaid managed care plans of upcoming changes to hospital-based presumptive eligibility (PE), effective **May 1, 2026**.

Starting May 1, 2026, Nebraska Medicaid will begin enforcing work requirements as a condition of eligibility for new applicants and existing Medicaid beneficiaries under Medicaid expansion. This change only impacts applicants found to be in the Medicaid expansion eligibility group by a hospital-based PE provider. Applicants found to be in other eligibility categories by a hospital-based PE provider and those found eligible by pregnant women PE providers are not impacted by this change.

Because of this change, PE providers will need to assess PE applicants for work requirement compliance. Compliance can be met by completing a work requirement activity or by having an exemption in a qualifying month. See the Presumptive Eligibility – MWR Resource on the [presumptive eligibility website](#) for more information about qualifying months and work requirements compliance.

If a PE applicant is identified as being in the Medicaid expansion group (also known as Heritage Health Adult) the PE provider must ask the applicant additional questions. An addendum with Medicaid work requirements screener questions has been added to the [DHHS Presumptive Eligibility Form](#) on the [presumptive eligibility website](#). If a member in the expansion group does not meet Medicaid Work Requirements either by completing a qualifying activity or by having an exemption, they cannot be approved for presumptive eligibility.

Individuals can meet work requirements by completing work requirement activities such as working, attending school or an apprenticeship, participating in a work program, or volunteering. Medicaid expansion applicants must spend at least 80 hours doing one or a combination of these activities. Individuals can also meet work requirements by earning the federal minimum threshold, which is the equivalent of 80 hours worked at the federal minimum wage (currently \$580).

Some beneficiaries enrolled under expansion may be exempt from completing work requirement activities. These exemptions include –but are not limited to– members of recognized Native American tribes, people who are medically frail or have special medical needs, caretakers or guardians of children age 13 or younger, and caretakers or guardians of individuals with disabilities. Some people also may not need to complete work requirement activities if they have a temporary hardship reason. For a full list of exemptions, please see the [work requirements webpage](#).

Resources

For more information on presumptive eligibility, visit: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Provider-Presumptive-Eligibility.aspx> or email DHHS.MedicaidPE@nebraska.gov.

Additionally, a one-pager with Medicaid work requirements information will be added to [presumptive eligibility website](#).

Health plan advisories, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Heritage-Health-Plan-Advisories.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date on new health plan advisories.