

To: All Providers Participating in the Nebraska Medicaid Program
From: Kevin Bagley, Director *KB*
Date: April 12, 2023
Re: Pandemic Flexibilities That End After June 30, 2023

This health plan advisory is being issued to let providers know that certain flexibilities introduced during the federal public health emergency (PHE) will end after June 30, 2023. These flexibilities were intended to help providers continue to provide quality care during that extraordinary time.

What follows is a list and explanation of those flexibilities that will end after June 30, 2023.

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Nebraska Medicaid’s authority to grant flexibilities comes from the federal government and impacts many providers. The flexibilities listed in this advisory are specific to Medicaid. Learn more about these flexibilities, including Medicare flexibilities, on the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website](#).

Administration Fees for COVID-19 Vaccine

An administration fee is sometimes paid when a vaccine is given.

What flexibility was granted during the PHE?

During the PHE, long-term care providers received an additional vaccine administration fee on top of the per diem. Nebraska Medicaid also provided an increased rate for COVID-19 vaccinations administered in a member's home or small communal group setting. Retail pharmacies received an enhanced administration fee. Additionally, providers reimbursed through enhanced ambulatory patient groups (EAPGs) could receive reimbursement for the COVID-19 vaccine administration outside of the EAPG.

What will be allowed as of July 1, 2023?

At this time, there will be no changes to this reimbursement methodology. If any changes occur, a provider bulletin will be released with more information.

ALF Payments

Assisted living facilities (ALFs) receive reimbursement for certain services they provide to members.

What happened during the PHE?

During the PHE, Nebraska Medicaid continued to pay the waiver rate to an ALF if a resident was temporarily transferred out of the facility to quarantine in another ALF or a skilled nursing facility, if the ALF held the resident's place.

What will be allowed as of July 1, 2023?

This flexibility will no longer be available.

Bed-Hold Days

"Bed-hold days" are the number of days in which a nursing facility (NF) or skilled nursing facility (SNF) allows a resident to return to the facility after temporarily transferring to a hospital or therapeutic leave.

What flexibility was granted during the PHE?

During the PHE, bed-hold days were increased to a maximum of 90 days in cases when a resident left the facility to quarantine in an alternate setting and was re-admitted after the quarantine period.

What will be allowed as of July 1, 2023?

Bed-hold days will return to the pre-PHE standard of a maximum of 15 days and for hospitalization only.

LTC Facility Transfers

Transfers from one long-term care (LTC) facility to another do occur for a variety of reasons.

What flexibility was granted during the PHE?

During the PHE, an extraordinary statewide process for facility transfers was put in place, with instructions for discharging and receiving facilities.

What will be allowed as of July 1, 2023?

LTC facility transfers will return to the pre-PHE standard.

Medication Refills

Each Medicaid health plan has a policy that indicates how often medication refills are allowed.

What flexibility was granted during the PHE?

During the PHE, members could receive a one-time early refill of their non-Schedule II medications to align with PHE social distancing policies.

What will be allowed as of July 1, 2023?

The flexibility for allowing an early refill for specific circumstances will continue to be allowed.

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 about new Health Plan Advisories.