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New! System Updates for the Online Application at MAhealthconnector.org

1 message

Massachusetts Health Care Training Forum <mtf@umassmed.edu>

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Massachusetts Health Care Training Forum

NOTICE

New! System Updates for the Online Application at MAhealthconnector.org



On Tuesday evening 4/5, technical updates were made to the online application at MAhealthconnector.org. These updates are related to Release 24.2.

Virtual MTF Meetings

Spring 2022

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New Health Connector Auto-Enrollment Checkbox

The Health Connector is implementing a new auto-enrollment capability for certain zero-dollar premium eligible members.

- Applicants will have an opportunity to select a box that will allow the Health Connector to automatically enroll them in a ConnectorCare plan type 1 or 2A \$0 plan if they qualify and do not shop for a plan
- ConnectorCare members that select the auto-enrollment checkbox would not have to take further shopping action to be enrolled in their plan when selecting this option
- Only individuals with open SEPs would be auto-enrolled
- If more than one \$0 plan exists, the batch will enroll the eligible individuals into the plan with the lowest monthly premium for the underlying Silver plan

Tax implications for Auto-enrolled members

- Like any member who enrolls in a ConnectorCare plan, these members will be responsible for reconciling any APTCs they receive
- Counsel members before “checking the box” that this is a new feature that can help them get or stay enrolled in coverage; however by checking this box, they are accepting the responsibility for filing taxes and reconciling APTCs
- Remind members to update their application throughout the year with any changes and especially income that could change the amount of APTC they receive to avoid repaying APTCs at tax time



Application Year 2022 Start Your Application Family & Household Income Additional Questions **Review & Sign**

Health Connector Automatic Enrollment

If you and your dependents are eligible for a Health Connector plan with a \$0 premium, you can choose to be automatically enrolled in that plan.

Check this box to give the Health Connector permission to automatically enroll you and your dependents in a \$0 Health Connector plan. If you are eligible for more than one \$0 plan, the Health Connector will select one for you.

By checking this box, you agree to the following statements:

- I understand that if I am automatically enrolled in a Health Connector plan, I will be accepting Advance Premium Tax Credits from the federal government to help pay for that plan, and I must file a federal income tax return for each year I receive those tax credits.
- I understand that I may have to repay some or all of those premium tax credits if my income is higher than what I reported to the Health Connector in this application or if I gain access to or enroll in other coverage during the year and do not report it to the Health Connector.
- I have read and agree to the [Terms and Conditions of Enrollment](#).

If you are automatically enrolled in a plan, you will have an opportunity to change to another plan, if one is available in your area. You will receive more information about your plan options after you submit your application.

[Back](#) [Continue](#) February

Citizenship and Immigration

The system update includes a new document selection option for both the Citizenship and Immigration document selection screens to allow individuals to indicate when they do not have a required document available from the predefined list.

- **U.S. Citizen Document Selection Updates**
 - If an individual indicates they are a naturalized, acquired, or derived U.S. Citizen and their status cannot be verified by SSA, the HIX will present a new document selection option to select if they do not have a Naturalization or Citizenship Certificate available.
 - The new selection option will state: *“I am a naturalized, derived, or acquired U.S. citizen, but I do not have a Naturalization Certificate or Citizenship Certificate, and I need more time to provide acceptable document information.”*

- **Immigration Document Selection Updates**

- If an individual indicates they have an eligible immigration status but does not have an immigration document available from the predefined list, the HIX system will present a new document selection option to allow the individual to select.
- The new selection option will state: *"I have an eligible immigration status, but my immigration document is not available at this time and I need more time to provide this information, or my immigration document is not listed above, or my immigration document does not have the required information."*

When either of these options are selected, either a citizenship or immigration RFI will be sent to the member or applicant. The applicant or member will be given a reasonable opportunity period (90 days) to provide proof of their citizenship or immigration document.

Individuals who need more time to provide proof of immigration status can request a reasonable opportunity extension. The extension must be requested **before** the original immigration RFI due date. Once granted, the extension will give up to 90 more days to provide immigration proof.

Note:

- The new "no document" type selection options will contain tool tips and users should select this **only** if they have a valid citizenship or immigration status, but do **not** have a required document from the predefined list provided in HIX.
- The following are examples of applicants who may be expected to use the new "no document" selection options:
 - Individuals who are newly naturalized and have not yet received their naturalization certificate.
 - PRUCOL individuals who have applied for an immigration status but have not been granted a status yet and do not have a document available from the predefined list (e.g. PRUCOLs with I-797 applications that do not contain Alien or I-94 numbers.)
 - Afghan Evacuees or Cuban/Haitian Entrants who have fled their countries and did not have an opportunity to get their immigration documents in order.

Reminder: Valid Nonimmigrant Visas

Per MassHealth regulations, applicants, and members with valid, unexpired "nonimmigrant visas" such as B1 (work visa) and B2 (visitor) visas are considered Immigrants Lawfully Present (ILP). Other valid nonimmigrant visas such as J1 (work and study-based exchange visa) and F1 (student visa) would also place a member into ILP status. If an applicant or member with a nonimmigrant visa satisfies residency and other requirements, they may be eligible for MassHealth benefits or Health Connector coverage.

In some situations, a person may enter the country on a valid nonimmigrant visa and apply for a different immigrant status during that time. If an applicant's nonimmigrant visa expires, but the applicant can provide proof of their filed application for an upgraded status with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), or for an extension of their visa (and they do not yet have employment authorization) they may qualify for PRUCOL or Person Residing Under Color of Law status.

In some situations, if a nonimmigrant visa expires, and the applicant or member has not yet applied for an extension or an upgraded status, they may qualify for PRUCOL status if the circumstances of

their case indicate that DHS is not contemplating enforcing departure. An example of this situation currently would include a Ukrainian individual who entered after March 1, 2022, who has an expired visitor visa, and has not yet applied for a visa extension or for an upgraded status.

Please review an applicant or member's immigration documents carefully to ensure accuracy in determining the most appropriate benefits.

Please review these recently published MassHealth Eligibility Operations Memos, which have important information about eligibility for certain noncitizen groups

[EOM 22-03: Eligibility Rules for Cuban and Haitian Entrants](#)

[EOM 22-04: Verification of PRUCOL Status](#)

[EOM 21-15: MassHealth Benefits for Afghan Immigrant Evacuees](#)

Note, Certified Application Counselors and Navigators can review information about different categories of immigration, including PRUCOLs, in Citizens and Noncitizens course found in the LMS.

Learn More

To learn more about each of these new system enhancements, please attend one of the upcoming Learning Series presentations as part of the [Spring MTF webinars](#). During those sessions, staff from the Health Connector and MassHealth will review each of these updates and answer your questions.

Reminders regarding system updates for the Online Application at MAhealthconnector.org

It is recommended that following any systems release or update, Assisters should clear their cache or internet history before accessing the online application or the Assister Portal for a better web experience (if you need assistance, please check with your PC support team).

For more technical information, visit <https://www.mahealthconnector.org/start> then scroll down to choose the subsection: **How to clear your browser's cache (history/memory)**.

Thank you,
MassHealth and the Health Connector

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