

4/3/24

MO HealthNet Spend Down Technical Update

MO HealthNet Spend Down policy for participants who change from non-spend down to spend down as a result of the annual renewal during the Public Health Emergency (PHE) unwinding period (6/1/23-5/31/24) was clarified by MO HealthNet Division (MHD) in February 2024. Those participants are entitled to continued coverage until 5/31/24 without Family Support Division (FSD) having to enter medical expenses or the participant paying the spend down into MHD. During a time period, the MHD system often did not extend the coverage unless the spend down was met.

In February, MHD began working to identify participants whose coverage should be continued but was not and are submitting system requests to have coverage added. Because the coverage is to be added by a system change, MHD has asked FSD not authorize coverage based on medical expenses for participants entitled to continued coverage to avoid duplicate lock-ins. Instead of entering lock-ins on these cases, FSD notifies MHD of identified participants. If Department of Mental Health (DMH) providers identify individuals in this situation who are unable to get medications filled or other services while waiting, the DMH Medicaid unit can contact FSD to get coverage for the current spend down authorized. In these instances, email DMH.MedicaidEligibility@dmh.mo.gov with the participant's name, DCN, the date the medical expenses were sent to the FSD, and the service that cannot be accessed while waiting on the system change.