

End of the Federal COVID-19 Emergency Orders: Update on Medicaid Unwinding

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET

Purpose

Federal COVID-19 emergency declarations allowed Medicaid recipients to be continuously enrolled throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, Medicaid enrollment grew dramatically with many states increasing the number of beneficiaries, easing eligibility criteria, and providing additional services. The emergency regulations also ensured uninterrupted coverage during a public health crisis. However, those continuous enrollment conditions ended in March 2023, triggering an unwinding of Medicaid, allowing states to end Medicaid benefits for individuals who do not meet eligibility requirements and return to normal operations. The Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN) will host a webinar to discuss the current state of the Medicaid unwinding and what it means for states, practitioners, and patients.

1:00–1:05 pm

Welcome and Introductions

Aditi Vasan, University of Pennsylvania

1:05–1:25 pm

Stage Setting

Jennifer Tolbert, Kaiser Family Foundation

Jason McGill, Assistant Director, Washington State Health Care Authority,
Medicaid Programs Division

Nathan Chomilo, Medicaid Medical Director, Minnesota Department of Human
Services

1:25–1:58 pm

Moderated Discussion

1:58–2:00 pm

Closing Reflections

Aditi Vasan, University of Pennsylvania

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

Nathan T. Chomilo (he/him) is the medical director for the State of Minnesota's Medicaid & MinnesotaCare programs, is an adjunct assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School, and practices as a general pediatrician with Park Nicollet Health Services/HealthPartners. He served as the State of Minnesota's COVID-19 vaccine equity director and as a senior advisor on equity to the Minnesota Commissioner of Health. Chomilo received an M.D. from the University of Minnesota Medical School where he also completed his combined residency in internal medicine and pediatrics and was a pediatric chief resident. Chomilo is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and currently serves in an uncompensated advisory role for some of the organization's expert committees, including the Medicaid & CHIP Expert Advisory Panel, the Section on Minority Health Equity & Inclusion, and the Council on Early Childhood. He is a board member of the AAP chapter in Minnesota that operates independently from AAP.

Jason McGill, JD serves Washington State through public leadership for the Medicaid program, including joint stewardship, management, and strategic efforts of the program key elements such as managed care. He previously served two Governors for Washington state as senior health policy advisor. He led the Governor's health and related strategic vision, goals and policy initiatives. He previously worked as a state agency Medical Administrator and as a state Assistant Attorney General. His service has spanned critical times during the deep recession to implementing the Affordable Care Act Medicaid expansion and now through the Covid 19 pandemic.

Jennifer Tolbert is the director of the State Health Reform and Data Program at KFF and an associate director of its Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured. She directs research and policy analysis on Medicaid eligibility and enrollment policies and access to and affordability of coverage for low-income populations, including people who are uninsured. In addition, Tolbert manages State Health Facts, a source for state-level data on over 800 key health topics.

Prior to joining KFF, Tolbert served as the assistant vice president for policy at America's Essential Hospitals. Before that, she worked in the office of the assistant secretary for planning and evaluation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Tolbert holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, a Master of Public Health and Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan.

Aditi Vasan, MD, MSHP is a pediatrician and health services researcher at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and an Instructor of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research aims to promote child health equity by improving the health and social service systems serving low-income and minoritized children and families. Her current work is focused on reducing administrative burdens to increase access to government benefit programs, implementing and evaluating health system-based social interventions, and building better supports for caregivers of medically complex children following hospital discharge. Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals including *JAMA*, *Health Affairs*, and *JAMA Pediatrics*, and featured in media outlets including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Dr. Vasan received her BA in Molecular Biology and Global Health and Health Policy from Princeton University and her MD from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She completed residency training in Pediatrics at CHOP, followed by fellowship training in the National Clinician Scholars Program at the University of Pennsylvania.