



## MEDICAID FOR FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

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### ISSUE

What is the Department of Social Services' (DSS) policy for reinstating Medicaid benefits for a formerly incarcerated individual who was a benefit recipient before he or she went to prison?

### SUMMARY

According to DSS, before April 1, 2015, DSS discontinued Medicaid coverage when a recipient was incarcerated. For those Medicaid recipients incarcerated on or after April 1, 2015, DSS, suspends, rather than discontinues, coverage with the exception of coverage for in-hospital services. Benefit suspension takes effect when an individual is incarcerated for more than 60 days and may remain in effect for up to three years, at which point the case is terminated if the individual is still in prison. If the prison term is less than three years, the suspension is lifted, which negates the need for a Medicaid application.

In collaboration with the Department of Correction (DOC) and UConn Correctional Managed Health Care (which provides health care at all of the state DOC facilities), DSS (1) identifies (a) Medicaid recipients incarcerated before April 1, 2015 whose coverage was discontinued and (b) eligible individuals who were not on Medicaid when they were incarcerated, and (2) processes their Medicaid applications in advance of their release. According to DSS, this allows DOC staff charged with developing the discharge plan to set medical appointments before the recipient leaves prison.

UConn Correctional Managed Health Care staff provides Medicaid prescription vouchers to individuals with prescription needs so that they may access prescribed medication while their applications are pending. The voucher is valid for five days after it is issued and the prescription cannot exceed a 30 day supply of medicine.



DSS also processes Medicaid applications it receives from the Judicial Department's Court Support Services Division. Individuals who were previous Medicaid recipients must still meet all eligibility requirements, including income limits and legal citizenship, to re-enroll or resume Medicaid coverage.

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