PROVIDER REFERENCE GUIDE: NONCITIZENS ELIGIBILITY CHANGES

PURPOSE

Help providers understand how eligibility changes may affect patients and what referrals to make.

WHAT IS CHANGING?

Beginning October 1, 2026, federal Medicaid rules are changing for some noncitizens. Your eligibility will now depend on your specific immigration status.

WHAT PROVIDERS SHOULD DO

√ Encourage patients to review all notices.
√ Encourage patients to update immigration documentation if requested.
√ Refer patients to DHS for eligibility determinations.
√ Avoid making eligibility determinations on behalf of patients.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Should providers determine whether a patient qualifies?

A: No. Eligibility determinations are made by DHS

Q: What if a patient is worried about losing coverage?

A: Encourage them to review their notices and contact DHS immediately to discuss available options.

COMMON TROUBLESHOOTING SCENARIOS

SCENARIO	RECOMMENDED PROVIDER RESPONSE
Patient believes coverage ended automatically	Refer to DHS for eligibility review
Patient is unsure which documents are needed	Refer to District Direct or DHS
Patient is concerned about seeking care	Encourage them to discuss available coverage options with DHS

DHCF Department of Health Care Finance
DC Department of Human Services
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DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR