

Transmittal

Oregon Eligibility Partnership



Date Issued: 10/11/2023

Transmittal #: OEP-AR-23-054

Subject/Topic: Limited OSIPM Medical Benefit Restoration

Primary Audience: Eligibility Leadership
 Family Coach LTSS Case Management
 Support Other:

Effective Date: 10/11/2023

Transmittal Type: Action Request

Impacted Area(s): New/Updated Policy/Rule Policy Clarification
 Reference Materials System(s), specify
 Other:

Reference Material(s): N/A

Summary:

Background

Oregon Supplemental Income Program-Medical (OSIPM) is a Medicaid program that provides medical coverage to eligible people who are: blind; have physical or developmental disabilities, and/or are 65 or older. People who are eligible for OSIPM may be eligible for long-term services or cash payments for special or service-related needs. OSIPM has income and resource limits to qualify for the program, although some income and resources are excluded for Medicaid purposes. During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Unwinding, eligibility for all people receiving Medicaid is being reviewed, including people participating in OSIPM. People can lose their OSIPM coverage for being over income or resource limits, among other reasons.

We are developing a plan to address concerns for people who could potentially keep OSIPM coverage through renewals.

ODHS and OHA Response

ODHS and OHA are taking the following actions to support the estimated 20,000 people who were affected by this change. These actions will be automated as much as possible. **For specific office actions, see below.**

- Pausing OSIPM benefit closures for those who are over income or over resource until notices are updated to provide more individualized information.
- Restoring coverage for individuals who lost OSIPM benefits for being over income or over resource until a revised notice is in place.
- Revising the notice and then re-processing the eligibility for all OSIPM participants. This gives people another opportunity to update their information and ask questions about how they can stay eligible. After a second eligibility review, some may still be closed for being over income or over resources.

Note: Additional information about the specific changes to notices will be released at a later time.

Long Term Services and Supports

As stated above, some individuals receiving OSIPM were also receiving Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS). When OSIPM benefits closed, LTSS were also ended. Additional instructions about restoring LTSS benefits will be released in a separate transmittal.

Central Office Actions

ONE system technicians are making changes to prevent closures and are working to restore affected benefits. The system changes will take place in phases:

- First, October renewals were automatically pushed out to **March 2024**.
- Second, benefits will be restored for individuals who lost all medical coverage in ONE. At the same time, ONE will be modified to prevent authorization of benefit terminations for OSIPM when the termination is based on the individual being over the income or resource limits.
- Third, benefits will be restored for individuals who saw a reduction in benefits. These participants lost OSIPM and were reduced to other benefits like Medicare Savings Program or Veteran's Dental.

We currently anticipate the first restoration actions will happen as early as next week.

Local Office Actions

At this time, we are asking local offices to do the following:

- If OSIPM benefits have already closed because the individual is over income and/or resource limits:
 - Do not take proactive action to restore OSIPM benefits unless directly contacted by an affected individual or their representative. This will ensure that automated actions will properly restore benefits.
 - If contacted about a specific individual, follow the instructions below to override benefit
- During Active Renewal or Report a Change:
 - Do not authorize OSIPM terminations when the termination is because the individual is over income and/or resource limits. Instead, override back to the previous benefit level and authorize, using the instructions below

Follow the instructions linked below to manually correct the eligibility, as appropriate.

Follow these instructions when:

- Someone whose OSIPM closed since 3/31/2023 because they had income or resources over allowable limits contacts the Department and wants to request a hearing, reapply, report a change, or has questions about why OSIPM closed.
- You are processing a reported change or renewal and the person is now OVI or OVR for OSIPM.

[OEP Eligibility Instructions for OSIPM OVI OVR Notice issue](#)

Authorizing Signature:

Questions?

APD.MedicaidPolicy@odhsoha.oregon.gov