



---

**August 4, 2023**

Welcome to "Washington Update," the weekly e-newsletter on the latest health care happenings in the nation's capital that affect APG's members.

Know people who may enjoy receiving it? **Forward this email and have them email [communications@apg.org](mailto:communications@apg.org) to be added to the subscription list.** And remember to visit **APG's website** for more news and resources, or contact a member of APG's Washington, DC, policy and communications team below.

**Valinda Rutledge**  
Executive Vice President  
Education and Strategic Initiatives  
[vrutledge@apg.org](mailto:vrutledge@apg.org)

**Jennifer Podulka**  
Vice President, Federal Policy  
[jpodulka@apg.org](mailto:jpodulka@apg.org)

**Garrett Eberhardt**  
Executive Director, Medicaid Policy  
[geberhardt@apg.org](mailto:geberhardt@apg.org)

**Greg Phillips**  
Director of Communications  
[gphillips@apg.org](mailto:gphillips@apg.org)

#### Table of Contents

- **CMS Pushes on 2030 Goal with New Alternative Payment Models and Updates**
- **Medicaid Renewal Efforts Focus on Kids**

#### **CMS Pushes On 2030 Goal with New Alternative Payment Models and Updates**

Faced with stalled growth in models such as the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) and ACO REACH, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and its Innovation Center are stepping up efforts toward the goal of having all Medicare beneficiaries in an accountable relationship with a provider by 2030. Recently announced measures are as follows:

- The Innovation Center this week announced a new model focused on person-centered care for people living with dementia and their caregivers. The [Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience \(GUIDE\) Model](#) is an 8-year demonstration that will be offered on a voluntary basis throughout the nation

beginning July 1, 2024. CMS will release an application for the model in the fall, and interested organizations should submit Letters of Intent by September 15, 2023.

- CMS recently released a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) on creating new episode-based payment models that could be incorporated into existing ACO models. APG held a member focus group on the RFI this week and will submit a comment letter to the agency by August 17. Interested members should submit feedback for inclusion in the letter to Valinda Rutledge at [vrutledge@apg.org](mailto:vrutledge@apg.org) or Jennifer Podulka at [jpodulka@apg.org](mailto:jpodulka@apg.org).
- CMS has also proposed [refinements to MSSP](#) and plans to announce further changes in ACO REACH this month. Both sets of changes will address stakeholder feedback, including recommendations made by APG and its member groups. APG hosted a Deep Dive webinar this week on the new policies proposed for MSSP in the [2024 proposed rule](#). Interested members should plan to join focus groups on either Thursday, August 10, or Tuesday, August 22, both at 3:00 pm ET, to share feedback for inclusion in APG's forthcoming comment letter to CMS. Members interested in the ACO REACH changes should plan to join the ACO REACH Coalition meeting on Thursday, August 24 at 4:00 pm ET to learn more about changes to the model. Please contact Valinda Rutledge at [vrutledge@apg.org](mailto:vrutledge@apg.org) or Jennifer Podulka at [jpodulka@apg.org](mailto:jpodulka@apg.org) for more information.

### **Medicaid Renewal Efforts Focus on Kids**

Amid [news](#) that the nation's uninsured rate hit an all-time low in the first quarter of 2023, federal officials are leaning on states to avoid unnecessary Medicaid disenrollments and preparing to raise awareness about the need to reenroll kids. The moves follow the end of COVID-era Medicaid continuous coverage requirements that expired last March, and that have resulted in at least [298,000 children](#) losing Medicaid coverage in 12 states to date.

To cope with inadequate paperwork and other procedural problems that can lead to inappropriate disenrollment, the Department of Health and Human Services has reminded states that they can renew beneficiaries' eligibility based on information from other programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. CMS also plans to release back-to-school guidance—consisting of sample letters, flyers, social media messages, and a checklist—to assist schools, teachers, pediatricians, and others in communicating with families about proactive steps to keep kids covered, as children may still be eligible for Medicaid even if their parents no longer are.

APG member organizations are among those that have been communicating with Medicaid beneficiaries about reenrollment through text message campaigns, flyers aimed at parents, and phone calls from patient navigators. Some are also working with community organizations to address beneficiaries' unstable housing and with health plans to remind beneficiaries to update their contact information. For more information, contact Garrett Eberhardt at [geberhardt@apg.org](mailto:geberhardt@apg.org).

###