



State of New Mexico  
Medical Assistance Program Manual  
**Supplement**



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**TO:** ALL PROVIDERS PARTICIPATING IN THE NEW MEXICO MEDICAID PROGRAM

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**THROUGH:** LORELEI KELLOGG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION

**SUBJECT:** FUNDING SOURCES AND PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY

The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD), Medical Assistance Division (MAD) is issuing this Supplement to provide guidance on accessing available sources of funding for care.

In compliance with Senate Bill 71 (Section 57, Article 32 NMSA 1978), the options for coverage or other programs to help pay for health care costs outlined below must be screened for prior to billing a patient for emergency or medically necessary care.

To the maximum extent possible, health care facilities and third-party health care providers, as defined under Section 57, Article 32 NMSA 1978, shall prioritize billing these sources to pay for the cost of care by: 1) federal funds; 2) state funds; and 3) other available funds.

#### **Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**

Medicaid/CHIP is a federal and state partnership health coverage program that provides no-cost health coverage to eligible New Mexicans, including adults between ages 19-64, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and pregnant women. More information can be found at [www.hsd.state.nm.us](http://www.hsd.state.nm.us). To apply, a person can visit [www.yes.state.nm.us](http://www.yes.state.nm.us) or call 1-800-283-4465.

#### **New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange (beWellnm)**

The New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange, also known as beWellnm, provides a marketplace for private health coverage for individuals who do not qualify for Medicare, Medicaid or receive coverage through their employer. New Mexicans between approximately 139%-400% of the federal poverty level are potentially eligible for federal premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions to help lower their costs of insurance coverage when purchasing a plan through beWellnm. More information can be found at [www.beWellnm.com](http://www.beWellnm.com) or by calling 1-833-862-3935.

## **New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool (NMMIP)**

The New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool provides an option for coverage for individuals who do not qualify for Medicare, Medicaid, beWellnm, or receive coverage through their employer. NMMIP provides subsidies to enrollees on a sliding, income-based scale to lower monthly premium costs. More information can be found at [www.nmmip.org](http://www.nmmip.org) or by calling 1-844-728-7896.

## **County Indigent Care**

When an indigent person is uninsured and cannot pay the costs of care, funds to pay for the costs might be available through county indigent care programs. Each county program in New Mexico has different eligibility criteria and services that will be covered. Health care facilities should contact their local county health departments for more information.

## **Hospital Financial Assistance/Charity Care**

Some hospitals provide financial assistance or charity care programs. These types of policies offer emergency or medically necessary care to patients at free or reduced costs. If your health care facility provides such assistance, your facility should offer to screen, and, if requested, screen a patient for eligibility. This includes screening for any costs that might not be covered by a patient's source of health insurance. The health care facility should apply the maximum discount available to a patient's cost of care prior to seeking reimbursement from the patient.

The Medicaid agency will notify providers of special federal funding opportunities as they become available, such as HRSA funding grants provided during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Applications for, and pursuit of, these funding opportunities is the responsibility of the provider.

## **Presumptive Eligibility (PE)**

State-wide, employees and contractors at qualified hospitals, clinics, Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers (FQHC), Indian Health Services (IHS) facilities, schools, primary care clinics, community organizations, county jails or detention centers, and some New Mexico State Agencies can be certified as Presumptive Eligibility Determiners (PEDs). PEDs can screen individuals for Medicaid eligibility and assist with the submission of Medicaid applications. Clients screened for eligibility may be granted Presumptive Eligibility (PE), which is a short-term Medicaid approval that allows eligible individuals immediate access to care. To be granted a PE approval, the individual must meet all Medicaid-qualifying factors (including citizenship, residency, and financial eligibility). An individual who is granted PE is not required to submit an ongoing Medicaid application; however, PEDs should always encourage PE-eligible clients to apply for ongoing coverage for continuation of Medicaid benefits.

PEDs utilize Your Eligibility System New Mexico for Presumptive Eligibility Determiners (YESNM-PE) to screen for PE and submit ongoing Medicaid applications. Access to this on-line Medicaid eligibility screening tool and application submission system is only available to certified PEDs via a secure log-in. When no ongoing Medicaid application is submitted, the PE period begins on the date of the PE approval, and ends the last day of the following month. If an ongoing application is submitted, either on the day the PE is granted or at any time during the PE approval period, the PE will remain in effect until the ongoing application is approved or denied.

HSD staff conduct monthly PE Certification trainings for employees of qualified entities that chose to participate in New Mexico Medicaid's PE program. PE certification requirements include completion and active participation in a PED Certification Training session, completion of a post-training comprehension test, and submission of all required PED registration documents. For active PEDs, PE program staff also conduct monthly PE Demo Sessions. Demo sessions are voluntary and are used to demonstrate the use of YESNM-PE and other tools and resources available to PEDs in their efforts to assist clients in accessing Medicaid benefits. For more information on PE or PE Certification Trainings, contact the PE Program Staff at [hsd.pedeterminers@state.nm.us](mailto:hsd.pedeterminers@state.nm.us).

For questions regarding this guidance, please contact the Medical Assistance Division at (505) 827-6252 or [MADInfo.HSD@state.nm.us](mailto:MADInfo.HSD@state.nm.us).