



MEDICAID FAQs FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICES AND JAIL EMPLOYEES

Can former offenders qualify for Colorado Medicaid?

Yes, as long as they meet all other eligibility criteria for Colorado Medicaid.

Can individuals on probation, parole, or pretrial services qualify for Colorado Medicaid?

Yes, individuals on probation, parole, or pretrial services may qualify for Colorado Medicaid if they meet all other eligibility criteria.

Are inmates eligible?

No, unless they are admitted to a hospital for more than 24 hours. Colorado Medicaid can cover inpatient services for inmates who are hospitalized for more than 24 hours.

For more information see the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's Agency letters: [14-006](#), [14-011](#)

What services are covered by Colorado Medicaid for inmates while admitted to a hospital for more than 24 hours?

The following are examples of services that may be covered for a Colorado Medicaid eligible inmate hospitalized for at least 24 hours (note: this list is not exhaustive):

- Medically necessary physician services during the inpatient hospitalization
- Medically necessary hospital services during the inpatient hospitalization
- Medically necessary medications provided during the hospitalization
- Medically necessary durable medical equipment provided during the hospitalization
- Medically necessary labs and diagnostics performed during the inpatient hospitalization



- Medically necessary transport of client from one hospital to another during hospitalization

For more information see the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's Agency letter [14-006](#), [14-011](#)

What services are not covered by Colorado Medicaid for hospitalized?

Services delivered on an outpatient basis, either before inpatient admission or after discharge, are not covered by Colorado Medicaid.

Examples include:

- Transportation, such as an ambulance, that occurs before admission or after discharge
- Services provided in the emergency department prior to inpatient admission
- Labs or diagnostics performed prior to inpatient admission or after discharge
- Services provided during a hospital admission for observation
- Medications or durable medical equipment that are provided before inpatient admission or after discharge

For more information see the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's Agency letters: [14-006](#), [14-011](#)

How do I find out if an inmate qualifies for Colorado Medicaid?

Eligibility and enrollment specialists at your county's human services office determine if an inmate qualifies for Colorado Medicaid. The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing has provided guidance for enrollment specialists on processing applications for inmates (See [HCPF Data Entry Guidance for Incarcerated Individuals](#) and [HCPF Agency letter 14-006](#)).

Does an inmate need to have a Colorado Medicaid eligibility determination prior to the hospitalization? How long do I have to determine eligibility for Colorado Medicaid after an inmate is discharged from the hospital?



Colorado Medicaid may cover services rendered to the client up to 90 days before the date of the application.

What happens if the inmate has been released from the correctional facility prior to receiving the Colorado Medicaid eligibility determination?

If an inmate released from jail before his/her Colorado Medicaid eligibility has been determined, all correspondence will be sent the inmate's address of release, which shall be provided with the Colorado Medicaid application.

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