



EBCI TRIBAL OPTION

For Providers



July 2025 Provider Newsletter

What is the EBCI Tribal Option?

EBCI Tribal Option assists approximately 5,700 Tribal-eligible Medicaid beneficiaries, primarily in Cherokee, Haywood, Swain, Jackson, and Graham counties.

Learn More



NCDHHS

NC Medicaid
Division of Health Benefits

In alignment with contractual obligations to health plans and in an effort to remain fiscally responsible with available resources, the Department is preparing to stop HOP services beginning July 1, 2025.



Medicaid.gov
Keeping America Healthy



Monthly Update: Enrollment Figures in the Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Operations and Enrollment Snapshot

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the latest enrollment figures for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for **February 2025** and **March 2025**. CMS releases the Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Operations and Enrollment

Snapshot on a monthly-basis, providing current month and retrospective data to convey a national and state-specific picture of Medicaid and CHIP eligibility operations and enrollment.

For more information on Medicaid and CHIP eligibility operations and enrollment, visit the **[Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Operations and Enrollment Snapshot page](#)**.

CMS Releases an Informational Bulletin Rescinding Guidance on Adding SOGI Questions to State Medicaid and CHIP Applications for Health Coverage

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released an **informational bulletin** rescinding Guidance on Adding Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Questions to State Medicaid and CHIP Applications for Health Coverage. CMS no longer intends to collect this information from state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies as part of Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) data submissions.

Informational Bulletin

CMS Issues Fraud Alert About Phishing Fax Requests

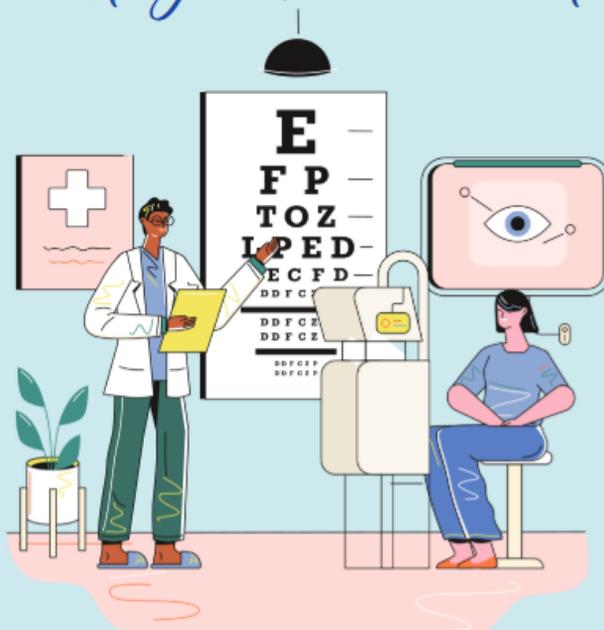
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an **alert** about a fraud scheme that uses phishing fax requests, which falsely claim to be from CMS staff, to obtain medical records and documentation for auditing purposes.

CMS does not initiate audits by requesting medical records via fax and if you receive a suspicious request, do not respond. If you have additional questions about this alert, please reach out to **Karissa.Bjorkgren@cms.hhs.gov**.

Fraud Alert

TRIBAL OPTION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN - JULY 2025

Healthy Vision Month



CMS Increasing Oversight on States Illegally Using Federal Medicaid Funding for Health Care for Illegal Immigrants

**MULTI-FACTOR
AUTHENTICATION
(MFA) WILL BE
REQUIRED FOR
ALL NCTRACKS
USERS SOON**

In accordance with the North Carolina Identity Management (NCID) Citizen Identity Project, NCTracks is changing the User Login process and implementing Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) updates for all NCTracks users in 2025.

This transition will occur in phases and you will be contacted via email when your account is scheduled to transition to MFA. If not already using MFA to log into NCTracks, you may also proactively follow the steps in the full announcement below to update all NCID profiles associated with your account.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today increased federal oversight to stop states from misusing federal Medicaid dollars to cover health care for individuals who are in the country illegally. Under federal law, federal Medicaid funding is generally only available for emergency medical services for noncitizens with unsatisfactory immigration status who would otherwise be Medicaid-eligible, but some states have pushed the boundaries, putting taxpayers on the hook for benefits that are not allowed.

“Medicaid is not, and cannot be, a backdoor pathway to subsidize open borders,” said CMS Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz. “States have a duty to uphold the law and protect taxpayer funds. We are putting them on notice—CMS will not allow federal dollars to be diverted to cover those who are not lawfully eligible.”

As part of the action, CMS is ramping up financial oversight across the board to identify and stop improper spending. This includes:

- Focused evaluations of select state Medicaid spending reports (CMS-64 form submissions);
 - In-depth reviews of select states’ financial management systems; and
- Assessing existing eligibility rules and policies to close loopholes and strengthen enforcement.

“Medicaid funds must serve American citizens in need and those legally entitled to benefits,” said CMS Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services Drew Snyder. “If states cannot or will not comply, CMS will step in.”

CMS is also urging all states to immediately examine and update internal controls, eligibility systems, and cost allocation policies to ensure full compliance with federal law. Any improper spending on noncitizens will be subject to recoupment of the federal share.

This effort aligns with President Trump’s broader focus to restore integrity to federal programs, secure the border, and put Americans first. CMS will continue to act decisively to ensure Medicaid dollars serve their true purpose—protecting people eligible for the program under federal law.

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[Notice to States](#)

Acronym of the Month

CDC

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Centers for Disease Control



Cherokee Language

“Legend”

nulistanidolvi

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Questions - Contact Live Help Desk

Submit questions to the Help Desk via email at openpayments@cms.hhs.gov or by calling 1-855-326-8366 (TTY Line: 1-844-649-2766), Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (ET), excluding Federal holidays.

The Help Desk refers media inquiries to CMS' Press Office for response.

Visit the [Resources](#) page on the Open Payments website for many of the above resources.

EAT WELL. *Play Well.* **STAY WELL.**



EBCI TRIBAL OPTION



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MEMBER/PROVIDER: 800.260.9992

[Connect With Us](#)

