

Medicaid Changes and Implications for the Jail Population

From 2007 up until August 1, 2016, counties were able to suspend Medicaid benefits for jail inmates who were incarcerated for less than one year through the Reinstatement of Medicaid for Public Institution Recipients (ROMPIR) system. This system provided a workaround for the state eligibility system, CRIS-E. The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has since implemented changes into their system, which includes a new approach to handling Medicaid enrolled individuals that are sent to jail.

Changes that occurred beginning on August 1, 2016

- ODM retired CRIS-E and implemented a new system, Ohio Benefits.
- It is no longer necessary to suspend Medicaid for incarcerated offenders, as they can remain on Medicaid.
- During incarceration, Medicaid will only pay for in-patient hospitalization. Once released from incarceration, Medicaid reverts to a full benefit plan (not just in-patient hospitalization) without the need to re-apply. This will ease access to care upon release.

Changes that occurred beginning on October 1, 2016

- Now that incarcerated individuals may retain their Medicaid, ODM created a new benefit plan for these individuals: In-patient Hospital Services Plan. This allows Medicaid to pay in-patient claims for Medicaid-eligible incarcerated individuals.
- County JFS workers were advised to reach out to county jails and sheriffs, county judicial offices, and mental health agencies that work with incarcerated offenders to receive, and process, applications for incarcerated individuals in order to assure access to care upon release.
- You may reach out to your county JFS to coordinate Medicaid enrollment for incarcerated individuals, prior to release, to coordinate care and services. 