

Network Communication Bulletin #430

To: All Providers

From: Khristine Brewington, MS, LCMHCS, LCAS, CCS, CCJP

Senior VP of Network Management

Date: September 15, 2025

Subject: Stronger Together Conference 2025; Attention Home Health Providers;

Credentialing Committee Launching Soon; Upcoming Provider Application Changes; Children and Families Specialty Plan Launching Later This Year; Site Visit Guidance for Physical Therapists; NC Medicaid Help Center & Provider Ombudsman; Implementation of Delegated Enrollment and Credentialing Placed on Hold; Recent Provider Communications; NC Tracks Quick Links; 2025 Fall Symposium "Responding To The Opioid and Substance Use Crisis in North Carolina's Rural Coastal Communities; Upcoming Post Disaster Simulation Opportunities; Roadmap to Ready: September 2025; Updates to Exclusion Sanction Questions on Provider Enrollment Applications; New Attestation Requirements for Individual Providers; Clinical Coverage Policy-Open for Public Comment; Vacancy on Trillium's Provider Council; Taxonomy Verification; Trillium Family Weekends at Victory Junction; Provider Directory and NCTracks Data; Upcoming Supporting Children Early Simulations September through December; Provider My Learning Campus Reminder; Need to Report Fraud, Waste, and Abuse?

NEW

STRONGER TOGETHER CONFERENCE 2025

Changing Rhythms, New Movements: Adapative Responses to Black Youth & Young Adult Mental Health.

The Stronger Together Conference™ is a one-day, interactive experience designed to offer healing and support to Black Youth and Young Adult Wellness. Centered on cultural connection, creative expression, and community care, the event brings together youth, young adults, and advocates for a day of learning, healing, and community building.

See details and Register





Provider Support Service: 1-855-250-1539

Administrative & Business Matters: 1-866-998-2597

ELECTRONIC VISIT VERIFICATION HARD LAUNCH

Attention All Home Health Providers Hard Launch is coming October 01, 2025

WHAT IS CHANGING?

Starting October 1, 2025, NC Medicaid will implement the **hard launch** phase of Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) for home health care services (HHCS) for dates of service rendered under both the Standard Plans and Tailored Plans. Claims for these services with dates of service on or after October 1, 2025, without the required EVV data, will be denied.

REASON FOR THE CHANGE:

The 21st Century Cures Act requires the use of an EVV system for HHCS. EVV uses technology to record the times, dates and specific services provided, which helps ensure beneficiaries receive the services they are authorized to receive.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

Timely preparation is essential to avoid disruptions in claims processing. Act now to ensure compliance and payment continuity.

- All home health providers are expected to be fully compliant with EVV requirements for every visit.
- EVV data must be validated prior to claims adjudication; and
- Claims without the required EVV criteria will be denied.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Begin sending EVV Data

- Revenue and service codes on the claim must match what is submitted with the EVV visit data or the claim will deny due to "no matching data". The codes included in the visit and claim must also match the authorized services.
- Health plan revenue and service code crosswalks are available on Trillium's EVV webpage.

2. Review Rejection logs in the Third-Party Alternate EVV Vendor's system

Follow the contracted third-party alternate EVV data capture vendors process for instructions to access this information

HHAeXchange:

- Response file is sent to third-party alternate EVV data capture vendors via SFTP
- ▲ The visit import rejections can be viewed in HHAX Portal: EDI Tool

UPCOMING TRAININGS

Carolina Complete Health | Trillium EVV Office Hours - 9/18/25 @ 11:00 am Register Here

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- Trillium Health Resources EVV Webpage
- Trillium Claims Support
- Trillium Provider Support Services 1-855-250-1539
- HHAeXchange Customer Support
- HHAeXchange Customer Support Telephone Number 1-855-400-4429
- Carolina Complete Health Home Health Webpage
- Carolina Complete Health Network Inquiries
- Carolina Complete Health Provider Engagement Contact List
- Carolina Complete Health Provider Services Telephone Number 1-833-552-3876
- NC DHHS EVV Webpage
- NC Medicaid Managed Care Provider Ombudsman
- NC Managed Care Provider Ombudsman Telephone Number 1-866-304-7062

CREDENTIALING COMMITTEE LAUNCHING SOON

A Credentialing Committee has been established to review provider files with flagged items that may impact the disposition of their NCTracks enrollment, reenrollment reverification application, as well as issues discovered through ongoing monitoring.

The committee, led by a Medical Director, will make quality determinations on provider files with issue findings from:

Primary source verifications

- Disclosures
- National Practitioner Data Bank queries (NPDB)
- Ongoing monitoring

Membership will include both voting and non-voting representatives from the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), payers and managed care health plans. The Credentialing Committee will meet weekly.

The NCDHHS Credentialing Committee continues toward an on-time launch of Sept. 28, 2025, with the first meeting planned for Oct. 8, 2025.

More information including official Committee bylaws, a fact sheet and frequently asked questions are available on the <u>Credentialing Committee webpage</u>.

UPCOMING PROVIDER APPLICATION CHANGES

The following provider enrollment application updates are effective **September 28**, **2025**, and were all made to meet National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) standards.

Draft applications in the system at the time of implementation will be deleted. Providers should submit draft applications before Sept. 28, 2025, to prevent loss of data.

Key Changes include:

- ♣ Updated exclusion sanction questions that providers are required to answer as part of their NC Medicaid enrollment application. Answering these questions affirmatively does not automatically disqualify a provider from NCDHHS program participation. However, failure to disclose can result in denial of the application and subsequent termination from all programs. For more information and to read the updated questions, please see the <u>Updates to Exclusion Sanction Questions on Provider Enrollment Applications announcement</u>.
- A new attestation process has been created wherein individual and atypical individual providers completing initial enrollment, re-enrollment and reverification applications must attest that all information on the application is true, correct and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief. This attestation will be part of initial enrollment, re-enrollment and reverification applications submitted through the secured NCTracks provider portal. To review the attestation process, please visit the New Attestation Requirements for Individual Providers announcement.

NCTracks will capture an Individual provider's race, ethnicity and languages spoken during Individual provider enrollment, re-enrollment, manage change requests and reverification applications. Responses are editable and offering this information is optional. Additional information is available in the New Demographic Data Collection on Provider Applications announcement.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SPECIALTY PLAN LAUNCHING LATER THIS YEAR

The Children and Families Specialty Plan (CFSP) is a first-of-its-kind statewide health plan to ensure access to comprehensive physical and behavioral health services for NC Medicaid-enrolled children, youth and families served by the child welfare system (e.g. foster care) with seamless, integrated and coordinated care. The first CFSP contract was awarded to Blue Cross Blue Shield NC after a competitive selection process, and the term will last four years. The plan, named Healthy Blue Care Together (HBCT), will go live on December 1, 2025.

- Providers should review the <u>What Providers Need to Know Before Children and Families Specialty Plan Launch (Part 1) fact sheet</u> for more information about impacted Medicaid beneficiaries, key dates, and contracting.
- A HBCT has their own provider contract template and process, making it imperative for providers serving impacted beneficiaries to initiate contact.
- For additional information about CFSP, please visit the <u>Children and Families</u> <u>Specialty Plan webpage</u>.

SITE VISIT GUIDANCE FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Physical Therapists who are enrolling with NC Medicaid are categorized as moderate risk, which generally requires a site visit. However, there are special provisions when the individual enrolling with a Physical Therapist taxonomy is affiliating to an organization billing on their behalf.

In the NCTracks application, Physical Therapists must answer questions regarding site visits. When prompted, those enrolling with Taxonomy 225100000X are advised to:

Answer "No" to "Have you completed the Federal site visit for this site to NC Medicaid, another state or Medicare?" when the individual is not billing under their individual NPI and the application includes an affiliation to an organization.

This will trigger a manual review and will prompt a site visit only when deemed necessary.

Note: This instruction is **only applicable** to Physical Therapist enrolling with an Individual enrollment type.

NC MEDICAID HELP CENTER & PROVIDER OMBUDSMAN

The Provider Ombudsman is separate from the managed care health plans' issue resolution processes and should be used only after contacting the health plan(s) or seeking information and guidance through the <u>NC Medicaid Help Center</u>.

- ▲ Inquiries may be submitted to <u>Medicaid.ProviderOmbudsman@dhhs.nc.gov</u> or by calling the Provider Ombudsman at 1-866-304-7062.
- The health plan grievance and appeal process for providers can be found in the health plan's Provider Manual, linked on the <u>Health Plan Contacts and Resources</u> webpage.

IMPLEMENTATION OF DELEGATED ENROLLMENT AND CREDENTIALING PLACED ON HOLD

NC Medicaid is pausing the implementation of Delegated Enrollment/Credentialing until further notice. This initiative would allow NC Medicaid to delegate individual provider credentialing to major hospitals and large health care systems to perform enrollment credentialing activities for their health care practitioners. Due to limited administrative funding, the Department must pause the implementation of delegated enrollment and credentialing at this time. This will not impact Credentialing Committee implementation and operations.

For more information about provider enrollment, visit NC Medicaid's <u>Provider</u> <u>Enrollment webpage</u>.

RECENT PROVIDER COMMUNICATIONS

Providers are encouraged to review the following content which has been recently created or refreshed.

NC MEDICAID

Provider Bulletins

- Implementation of Delegated Enrollment and Credentialing Placed on Hold
- Credentialing Committee Bylaws Public Review Period Now Open
- NC Medicaid to Change Coverage for GLP-1 Weight Management Medications

UPDATED NCTRACKS

- NCTracks Provider Announcements
- Updates to Telehealth Question on Provider Applications
- Update to Appeal Language in North Carolina Medicaid Provider Adverse Action Letters
- New Text on Accreditation and Federal Regulations Pages of NCTracks Provider Enrollment Applications for Physical Therapists
- Coming Soon: NCDHHS Credentialing Committee
- New National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) Query and Credentialing Committee
- Now Accepting Applications for NCDHHS Credentialing Committee Peer Reviewers
- Federal Site Visit Requirement Added for Taxonomy 251B00000X (Case Management)
- New Attestation Requirements for Individual Providers
- New Demographic Data Collection on Provider Applications
- Update on Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist (LCAS) Registered Status
- Updates to Exclusion Sanction Questions on Provider Enrollment Applications
- Updated NCTracks Provider FAQs
- North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)
 Credentialing Committee FAQs

NCTRACKS QUICK LINKS

- NC Caregiving Workforce Strategic Leadership Council Celebrates Progress
- NCDHHS Standing Orders-COVID-19 Vaccines

REMINDERS

2025 FALL SYMPOSIUM "RESPONDING TO THE OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE USE CRISIS IN NORTH CAROLINA'S RURAL COASTAL COMMUNITIES

North Carolina's rural coastal communities have been uniquely affected by the escalating opioid and substance use crisis, where limited access to care, limited treatment resources, and stigma present daily challenges for individuals and families. This conference brings together those on the front lines—local mayors, county sheriffs, peer support specialists, and policy makers—for a dynamic conversation grounded in lived experience, evidence-based solutions, and collaborative leadership. Panel discussions will spotlight community-driven strategies that are making a difference.



Attendees will gain insights from public officials

championing change, peer support specialists providing resources and connection, and policy experts working to fund and implement sustainable interventions. The keynote presentation will feature Kelly Crosbie, Director of the North Carolina Division of MH/DD/SUS who will provide an update on the current state of Substance Use and Mental Health in North Carolina. If you need help with online registration or other technical issues, please call our help desk at 252-744-5210 or email easternahec@ecu.edu

UPCOMING POST-DISASTER SIMULATION OPPORTUNITIES

In this Post Disaster Simulation, you will learn about the importance of being prepared. This journey walks you through the weeks following a disaster.

Participants will experience what it's like navigating life after disaster and the many barriers faced. It also highlights the added struggles for individuals living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and/or substance use disorders.

Thursday, October 2, 2025

Check-in: 8:30 a.m.

Event time: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Brunswick Community College Odell Williamston Auditorium

150 College Rd. NE Bolivia, NC 28422

Register today and secure your spot

Thursday October 21, 2025

Check-in: 8:30 a.m.

Event time: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Onslow County Emergency Operations

Center

1180 N. Commons Dr. Jacksonville, NC 28546

Register today and secure your spot

Free and Open to the Public with Light refreshments provided.

ROADMAP 2 READY: SEPTEMBER 2025

Each month we will cover a topic that is a part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Emergency Preparedness Rule. In August we covered resources about 2 Ready how to calculate the supplies you may need in case of an emergency. Interested to see what is covered? Click here?



It is **National Preparedness Month!** National Preparedness Month, observed each September, was established by FEMA in 2004 to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies and disasters.

Review your emergency plans with your staff at your meetings by proposing a short scenario and discussing the procedures for your facility(-ies). Here are some topics you may not have covered before.

- How are you going to protect your inventory?
- How do you back up your contact information, contracts and medical information in a HIPAA safe manner and have it available without internet?
- A How will you address financial decisions and track expenses if you need to apply for a FEMA or file an insurance claim?

See more resources to address these questions and more from the <u>Small Business</u> <u>Administration Business Resilience Guide.</u>

Disaster plans must be submitted through the following link: 2025 Disaster Plan Submission. To confirm your disaster plan was received just check the "send me a copy of my responses" option at the end of the Disaster Plan Submission form.

UPDATES TO EXCLUSION SANCTION QUESTIONS ON PROVIDER ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS

Effective September 28, 2025, NCTracks will update initial, re-enrollment, re-verification and manage change request (MCR) provider application Exclusion Sanction questions. The new questions (N, Q, R and S) are required to meet National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) standards. Providers must respond to these questions on all applicable provider enrollment applications initiated on or after **September 28, 2025**.

The current question reads:

▲ N. Does the enrolling provider have any medical, chemical dependency or psychiatric conditions that might adversely affect your ability to practice medicine or surgery or to perform the essential functions of your position?

The current question will be replaced with the following, and new questions Q, R, S will be added:

N. Is the enrolling provider currently engaged in the illegal use of drugs?

"Currently" means sufficiently recent to justify a reasonable belief that the use of drugs may have an ongoing impact on one's ability to practice medicine. It is not limited to the day of, or within a matter of days or weeks before the date of application but instead refers to conduct recent enough to indicate the individual is actively engaged in such use. "Illegal use of drugs" refers to drugs whose possession or distribution is unlawful under the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. §812.22. It does not include the use of a drug taken under supervision by a licensed health care professional, or other uses authorized under federal law. The term does include unlawful use of prescription-controlled substances.

- ♠ Q. Does the enrolling provider use any chemical substances that would in any way impair or limit the ability to practice medicine and perform the functions of the job with reasonable skill and safety?
- **R.** Does the enrolling provider have any reason to believe that they would pose a risk to the safety or well-being of patients?
- **S.** Is the enrolling provider unable to perform the essential functions of a practitioner in the area of practice even with reasonable accommodation?

IMPORTANT NOTES

Answering these questions affirmatively does not automatically disqualify a provider from NC DHHS program participation. However, failure to disclose can result in denial of the application and subsequent termination from all NCDHHS programs.

To avoid delays or additional applications, providers are strongly encouraged to:

- Submit all draft applications before September 27, 2025.
- ▲ If drafts remain after the go-live date, be prepared to start a new application under the updated requirements.

Draft applications in the system at the time of implementation will be deleted. Providers should submit draft applications before September 28, 2025, to prevent loss of data.

Please contact the NCTracks Contact Center at 1-800-688-6696 with any questions.

NEW ATTESTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL PROVIDERS

Effective September 28, 2025, NCTracks is implementing a new attestation process for Individual and Atypical Individual providers as part of initial enrollment, re-enrollment and reverification applications submitted through the secured provider portal of NCTracks. This change aligns with the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) standards.

New Attestation Requirement

- For initial and re-enrollment applications, the Individual practitioner will be required to complete an attestation before the application can be submitted for processing through NCTracks.
- The Office Administrator (OA), after completing the application, will be prompted to "Request Provider Attestation" which will generate a notification to the Individual provider via a secure link to the Individual provider's email address listed on the application.
- To complete the attestation, the provider must confirm their identity by entering their National Provider Identifier (NPI)/Atypical number, date of birth, and the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN), then review the application and "Approve" or "Reject."

- ▲ If the Office Administrator (OA) and Individual Provider are the same person (based on SSN), the provider can complete and submit the application directly.
- An email notification is sent to the OA when the attestation is completed, whether the Individual provider approves or rejects the application, allowing the OA to either correct and resend the application to the Individual provider for attestation, or submit the application.
- If the Individual provider attestation is not completed within 45 calendar days, the application will automatically abandon.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- △ Draft applications in the system at the time of implementation will be deleted.
- Providers should submit draft applications before September 28, 2025, to prevent loss of data.

CLINICAL COVERAGE POLICY-OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Clinical Coverage Policy 2A-1 Acute Inpatient Services is open for public comment until 9/29/2025. This information can be found on the <u>Proposed Medicaid Policy</u> webpage.

VACANCY ON TRILLIUM'S PROVIDER COUNCIL

The Provider Council has a seat available for a hospital representative. There is only one seat on the council to represent the five regions, so we will accept applications from any hospital in the Trillium Network. The deadline for applying will remain open until it is filled.

Applications can be found on the Trillium website and should be sent to the Provider Council President, <u>English Albertson</u>. All applications will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee of the Provider Council to ensure that eligibility criteria are set forth in the bylaws and any Provider Council resolutions are met. Once this process is complete, the Nominating Committee will present the hospital representative nominees to the Provider Council for a vote.

To learn more about Trillium's Provider Council, please visit our <u>Provider Council</u> webpage.

TAXONOMY VERIFICATION

We would like to bring your attention to several updates regarding the Provider Permission Matrix. Please note that Taxonomy Code 261QR0401X has been removed from the Provider Permission Matrix, and Taxonomy Code 261QM0850X is only a Statefunded allowable code. Medicaid has been removed.

It is the responsibility of the Provider to ensure an Active Allowable Taxonomy is in NC Tracks under the Provider NPI(s) Service Site Location(s). NC Tracks posts updated Taxonomy Code Changes in the Provider Permission Matrix. Please ensure to review this periodically to ensure there will be no claims payment interruptions.

The Provider Permission Matrix, as well as a Provider Permission Matrix Instructions job aid are available on the <u>NCTracks Provider Enrollment</u> webpage.

TRILLIUM FAMILY WEEKENDS AT VICTORY JUNCTION

September 19-21, 2025 | Application Deadline: September 5, 2025 October 3-5, 2025 | Application Deadline: September 19, 2025 October 31 – November 2, 2025 | Application Deadline: October 17, 2025

Get ready—the newest session for Trillium Family Weekend at Victory Junction is here! We hope our members and families will take advantage of the camp's inclusive environment and diverse amenities. Join us on a family weekend this fall in Randleman, NC.

The weekend is a unique experience for families to connect. Campers of every ability can feel fully empowered. Victory Junction adapts activities for every need. The camp's amazing staff are familiar with hosting Trillium families. They even accommodate special diets. There is no cost to attend.

Open to all Trillium members and their families or natural support, regardless of age or diagnosis.

Come experience the magic of camp with us! Spots are limited! Complete the <u>Fall 2025</u> <u>Interest Form</u> to begin your application. Visit the <u>Victory Junction Family Weekends</u> <u>Webpage</u> to learn more!

Covid-19 Statement: The COVID-19 vaccination is optional for campers and their families. Victory Junction highly recommends proof of a COVID-19 vaccination. This includes each person attending your party, ages 5 and up, who will be on-site during the family weekend. Self-pre-testing and reporting will be required for all within 48 hours of check-in.

PROVIDER DIRECTORY AND NCTRACKS DATA

Trillium encourages all provider agencies to regularly review and update their provider information in NCTracks. The data in NCTracks is used to populate Trillium's Provider Directory, which is a vital resource for members, families, and stakeholders. Thank you for your continued commitment to maintaining accurate and up-to-date information on the Directory. For any questions related to Trillium's Provider Directory, please contact TrilliumProviderDirectory@TrilliumNC.org.

UPCOMING TRILLIUM REENTRY AND SUPPORTING CHILDREN EARLY SIMULATIONS SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER!

Supporting Children Early Simulation opportunities being offered from September through December!

These events are free and open for anyone to attend. Please share the information with your contacts!

RE-ENTRY SIMULATIONS:

Dare County—November 5, 2025

SUPPORTING CHILDREN EARLY SIMULATIONS:

- Guilford County—September 23, 2025
- Sampson County—November 13, 2025
- Edgecombe County—December 4, 2025

PROVIDER MY LEARNING CAMPUS REMINDER

To find updated and current Provider Trainings, please visit:

Provider My Learning Campus or this list of provider trainings.

NEED TO REPORT FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE?

EthicsPoint is a secure and confidential system available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for anyone to report suspected violations of potential fraud, waste and abuse, or confidentiality issues. You can access EthicsPoint through website submission at EthicsPoint - Trillium Health Resources or by calling toll-free: 1-855-659-7660.