

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE FACT SHEET

On January 10, 2025, President Biden declared a major disaster in California due to wildfires. Public Health Emergency (PHE) flexibilities are retroactive to January 7, 2025. During this PHE, CMS authorized a 1135 blanket waiver for evacuated, transferred, or dislocated individuals in California. The waivers and modifications listed in the presidential declaration are valid for 90 days from the PHE's effective date, unless otherwise notified.

<https://edit.cms.gov/files/document/2025-southern-ca-wildfires-waiver-list-01-12-25.pdf>

Please see [CMS website](#) for information regarding:

- 1135 Blanket Waivers and Public Health Emergency Determination
- Hospitals, Psychiatric Hospitals, and Long-Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs)
- Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)
- Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
- End Stage Renal Dialysis (ESRD)

<https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/what-we-do/emergency-response/current-emergencies>

Flexibilities and Reminders

- Appending “CR” modifier (CMS-1500) and the “DR” condition code (UB-04) are mandatory on claims for items and services which Medicare payment is conditional on a waiver
- Address changes for providers need to be completed in PECOS or 855I form
- Temporary emergency coverage of SNF services. SNF services provided for beneficiaries who are evacuated, transferred, or otherwise dislocated because of the effects in impacted areas:
 - Coverage will be provided for extended care services (up to additional 100 days), with no requirement for a new spell of illness to renew provision of services by a SNF
 - Waiver for 3-day inpatient hospital stay
- Good cause for appeals in accordance with regulations and guidance as outlined in the [Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 29, Section 240.4](#).

Please see [Noridian’s Emergencies and Disasters](#) page for more information:

- PHE Resources for Providers
- Noridian’s FAQ
- CMS Resources
- <https://med.noridianmedicare.com> – Browse by Topics – Emergency and Disasters

Noridian Medicare Provider Call Center - **855-609-9960**

Beneficiaries can call 1-800-MEDICARE for questions on lost Medicare cards or locating a provider.