

TennCare Policy Manual	Section: Program Integrity
Policy No: PI 13-001 (Rev. 1)	Date: March 29, 2021

## Provider Terminations for Inactivity

### Policy and Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to address potential TennCare fraud and abuse issues related to providers who have been inactive for an extended period. Specifically, the Division of TennCare reserves the right to terminate the provider numbers of providers who have not billed for any services furnished to TennCare enrollees for a period of 12 consecutive months. (It should be noted that this policy does not apply to providers who solely order, refer, or prescribe services for TennCare members. These “ORP” providers typically do not bill TennCare at all or do so only rarely, but they play an important role in ensuring that members receive medically necessary services.)

TCA § 71-5-118(a) allows the Commissioner of Finance and Administration to terminate or suspend existing contracts with providers “if the Commissioner finds that such actions will further the purpose of this section.” Deactivating unused provider numbers as appropriate is an important tool for preventing provider fraud, and therefore is consistent with this law.

Providers terminated solely for inactivity may re-register for TennCare to re-start their participation in the program, but they will be treated like providers newly registering for TennCare. They must be determined to meet the definition of “Approved Provider” in TennCare Rule 1200-13-18-.02 (i.e., they must be providers of health care services who have registered with and been approved by TennCare and have been issued Tennessee Medicaid Provider Numbers).

### Offices of Primary Responsibility

Office of Program Integrity  
Office of Provider Services  
Office of General Counsel

### References

TCA 71-5-118(a)

<https://advance.lexis.com/container?config=014CJAA5ZGVhZjA3NS02MmMzLTRlZWQtOGJjNC00YzQ1MmZlNzc2YWYKAFBvZENhdGFsb2e9zYpNUjTRalWVfyrur9ud&crd=129077e8-97f8-4932-8b3e-372a3d803058&prid=98b586de-e198-45af-8313-b689a5dcbcd7>

TennCare Rules 1200-13-13-.08, 1200-13-14-.08, and 1200-13-18

<https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1200/1200-13/1200-13.htm>

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Original: 05/09/13: SB

Revision 1: 03/29/21: AEH & JTR