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TO: **Income Maintenance Supervisors**
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators

FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens
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Bureau of Eligibility Management
Division of Health Care Financing

BEM/DWS OPERATIONS MEMO					
No:	07-56				
DATE:	09/20/2007				
FS	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SC	<input type="checkbox"/>
CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CF	<input type="checkbox"/>
JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	JC	<input type="checkbox"/>	RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>
WIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	EP	<input type="checkbox"/>	★
PRIORITY: HIGH					

SUBJECT: Continuously Eligible Newborns and Emergency Medicaid

CROSS REFERENCE: MEH 3.2.3.3, 5.2.5

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 1, 2007

PURPOSE:

This memo announces a new policy regarding the eligibility status of babies whose labor and delivery costs are covered by Medicaid (MA). It also outlines the process the Bureau of Eligibility Management (BEM) is following to provide retroactive eligibility for those affected during the time between issuance of federal guidance and this memo. The policy change described here is not applicable to babies born to mothers receiving BadgerCare Prenatal (BCPN) benefits.

After the release date of this memo, Income Maintenance (IM) agencies and the medical provider's newborn report will facilitate the eligibility for babies whose labor and delivery costs are covered by Medicaid (MA).

BACKGROUND

In the past, continuously eligible newborn (CEN) status was granted only to babies born to mothers who were receiving regular full benefit Medicaid (MA) at the time of birth. Babies born to mothers receiving Emergency Medicaid (EMA) for labor and delivery costs were not granted CEN status, because EMA is a limited benefit program.

POLICY

Effective March 1, 2007, any baby whose delivery costs are covered by MA are eligible for CEN status until their first review, or until CEN eligibility criteria is no longer met. The significance of this change is that babies born to mothers receiving EMA are now eligible as CENs. CEN status allows for immediate eligibility and uninterrupted medical care for those critical early months of a baby's life. Additionally, the policy helps to remove any barriers to applying that the mother may have perceived because of her undocumented immigrant status.

CEN status also applies in instances where the labor and delivery services were provided prior to the date of application and covered by MA based on retroactive eligibility.

NOTE ➤ Since the introduction of the BadgerCare Prenatal program (BCPN) in January 2006, many of the women who would have been enrolled in EMA for coverage of labor and delivery costs are now enrolled instead into BCPN. BCPN is a State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) program, not a MA program. At this point CMS has not included babies born to mothers receiving SCHIP at the time of birth in the new policy. Therefore babies whose mothers qualified for BCPN are not eligible for CEN status at this time.

PROCESS

IM workers should follow the steps outlined below to process eligibility for newborns entitled to CEN status.

Newborn Processing

Babies born to mothers receiving MA or EMA may be reported to the IM agency through various sources. For example, the mother reports the baby's birth directly, the MA fiscal agent (EDS) receives a report from the HMO or Hospital, the Child Support enforcement agencies or other third parties.

Generally, when a newborn is reported to the IM agency, there is an existing MA case and the worker promptly adds the baby to that case as a CEN. For babies whose mothers received EMA, there may not be an active CARES case or it may be closed for 30 days or more. Individuals receiving EMA are not eligible for the regular MA pregnancy extension. They do continue to be eligible for EMA for up to 60 days post-partum, even though eligibility does not appear in CWW.

Active CARES Case

If the mother has an active case in CARES, initiate the person add driver flow from the Case Summary page and follow the steps outlined in Process Help [3.1](#) to add the newborn.

Non-Active CARES Case

If the mother is not currently eligible for any program in CARES or the mother's case has been closed for 30 days or more, a new client registration RFA is needed for the mother. After creating the RFA, follow the steps outlined in Process Help [3.1](#) to add the newborn.

In order to process newborn applications, follow the instructions in Process Help [1.2.1](#).

INTERIM PROCESSING COMMUNICATION

BEM is notifying both the medical provider community and EMA recipients who have given birth between March 1, 2007 and the release date of this memo about this policy change.

CEN Notification Letter to Mother

A letter will be sent by the state to those mothers who have received EMA (during the above mentioned time period) and had a birth claim during their EMA eligibility. Since claims come in several weeks after the service date, BEM will be checking for these through the end of 2007. As a result, there will be three separate mailings to the mothers scheduled for October 2007 through January 2008. Therefore agencies may be contacted by mothers receiving the letter for the next several months.

This letter, printed in both English and Spanish, explains that the baby is eligible for MA at the time of birth if the baby still resides with her in Wisconsin and asks the mother to provide certain information to the local IM agency. Once the mother provides the information to the IM agency, the newborn can be processed in CWW without the mother coming into the IM agency.

When the newborn information is received, the IM agency should add the newborn to the case (follow the instructions in Process Help [3.1](#)). Since eligibility should go back to the baby's date of birth, which in some cases will be beyond the standard three months allowed in CWW, use the manual HCF10110 (formerly DES 3070) process for those months that cannot be entered in CWW.

CEN Policy Update to Providers

The letter to the provider community will explain that babies whose birth costs are covered by any type of MA are now eligible for CEN status. It also advises providers to start adding the EMA babies to their newborn report to our fiscal agent, EDS.

On-going Processing

The medical provider community should begin including EMA babies with the MA newborn report to our fiscal agent (EDS). Local agencies will receive the newborn report, including EMA babies, from EDS as they normally have in the past to process the CEN eligibility for all MA newborns.

CITIZENSHIP AND IDENTITY VERIFICATION

Although CENs are not subject to the citizenship and identity verification requirements until their first eligibility review, it may be possible to complete the verification while processing eligibility for a newborn. It is beneficial to do so even though it is earlier than legally required. The easiest way to do this is to check the online Birth Query data exchange; enter <BQ> in CARES as the citizenship verification code when using the Birth Query.

If citizenship and identity cannot be verified at the time of initial eligibility certification, use the <NB> code that was established for CENs which will be valid until the next review.

The identity verification can be done with the Statement of Identity for Children Under 16 Years of Age ([HCF 10154](#)).

IMPACT ON OTHER PROGRAMS

Other programs of assistance may also be open on the case in which the child is to be added. Add the newborn to the assistance case for FS, CC and W2 based on the already established procedure for adding a person to the case.

ATTACHMENTS

CEN Notification Letter to Mother

CONTACTS

BEM CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

★Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – Food Stamp Employment and Training, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.

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