

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
Secretary Roberta Gassman
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-7552
FAX: (608) 266-1784
www.dwd.state.wi.us



State of Wisconsin
Governor Jim Doyle

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY SERVICES
Secretary Karen E. Timberlake
1 West Wilson Street
P.O. Box 7850
Madison, WI 53707-7850
Telephone: (608) 266-9622
FAX: (608) 266-7882
www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov

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, Chief
Technical Assistance and Training Section
Bureau of Enrollment Management
Division of Health Care Access and
Accountability

BEM/DFS OPERATIONS MEMO

No: 08-53

DATE: 12/22/2008

FS	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>	BC+	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SC	<input type="checkbox"/>	CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>
CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>
				EP	

PRIORITY: HIGH

SUBJECT: BC+ Prenatal Program and Continuously Eligible Newborns

CROSS REFERENCE: Social Security Act, Section 1902 (e)(4)
Code of Federal Regulations, 42 CFR 435.117(b)
BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, Section 8.2
Operations Memo 07-56

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2009

PURPOSE:

This memo communicates a change for children born to non-qualifying immigrants who are eligible for BadgerCare Plus Prenatal Program benefits at the time of the births. Effective January 1, 2009, these children will now be eligible for BadgerCare Plus (BC+) as a Continuously Eligible Newborn (CEN).

BACKGROUND

Newborn children are automatically eligible for BC+ as a CEN from the date of birth through the end of the month in which they turn one year old if:

- They are under age 13 months,
- The natural mother was determined eligible, in the State of Wisconsin, for one of the following programs:
 - BC+ or
 - Other full-benefit Medicaid (MEH 7.1.2) or
 - Emergency Services BC+ or
 - Emergency Services Medicaid (MEH 3.2.3),and
- The child continues to reside with his/her natural mother.

However, as noted in Operations Memo 07-56, children born to women in the BadgerCare Prenatal program (BCPN) were not eligible for CEN status. This restriction continued for women enrolled in the BC+ Prenatal Program (BC+ EH, 8.2). The reason for this policy exception was that the benefit these women received was funded under the federal Separate Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) or state revenues and not Medicaid.

The department has decided to conserve our limited federal SCHIP funding and to fund labor and delivery services through the federal Medicaid program for those immigrant women in the BC+ Prenatal Program (BC+PP). This change means that the children born to these women will now be eligible for BC+ as CENs.

- **NOTE:** We may not provide federal Medicaid benefits to pregnant women who are incarcerated or to pregnant children under age 19 with family incomes over 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. As such, children born to these pregnant minors in BC+, or to incarcerated women enrolled in BC+PP continue to be ineligible for CEN status under BC+.

POLICY CHANGE

Old Policy:

Children born to non-qualifying immigrant women receiving BC+PP benefits were not eligible for BC+ as a CEN.

New Policy:

Effective January 1, 2009, children born to non-qualifying immigrant women receiving BC+PP benefits are eligible for BC+ as a CEN. This includes cases where the BC+ PP eligibility was granted retroactively.

- Note: Children born to *incarcerated* mothers or pregnant minors with family income over 300% FPL who were eligible for BC+ are still not eligible as a CEN.

PROCESS CHANGE

EDS

Hospitals and HMO's will include children born to BC+PP moms in the CEN report to EDS. EDS will follow regular CEN procedures to certify these children and use the same CEN letter to notify the BC+PP mothers and IM workers.

COUNTY AGENCIES

Children born to certified BC+PP moms may be reported to IM agencies by EDS, HMOs and Hospitals, or by their mothers. IM workers will follow the regular CEN procedures to add the baby to the mother's case in CARES as soon as possible. See CARES processing instructions below.

The process used by DHS to bill labor and delivery expenses to Medicaid will happen automatically and does not require worker action. There is no change to how IM workers certify the mother for BC+PP, nor do workers have to take steps to certify the mothers under Emergency Services outside of CARES if the mother's eligibility for BC+PP is on file at EDS.

CARES

The Process Help Manual, Chapter 3.1 Newborn (baby) Add was recently updated. Use this process to add all children to CARES who are born to non-qualifying immigrant mothers eligible at birth for BC+PP, with one change. On the Newborn Page in Cares Worker Web, answer the question "Was the child's mother eligible for any non-CARES MA at the time of the child's birth?" as a "Yes" for non-qualifying immigrant mothers who were eligible for BC+PP as of the date of the child's birth.

CONTACTS

BEM CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – FoodShare 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.

DHS/DHCAA/BEM/JL