

UPDATES ON PREGNANCY COVERAGE IN MEDI-CAL AND MCAP

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For MCH Access

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TIMELINES

- Today
- January 1, 2022
- April 1, 2022
- July 1, 2022
- Fiscal Year 2022-2023

TODAY: SCOPE OF COVERAGE DURING PREGNANCY

What is the scope of “Pregnancy-Related” and “Restricted” Medi-Cal (emergency/pregnancy-related)?

The full breadth of Medi-Cal services, per Obamacare.

TODAY– SCOPE (CONT'D)

Example 1 from the Automated Eligibility Verification System (AEVS)

Restricted Medi-Cal (emergency/pregnancy-related)
(e.g., Aid Code 1U)

“Medi-Cal eligible for Emergency/Pregnancy Related svcs w/no SOC/spend down. If subscriber is pregnant or postpartum, use pregnancy diagnosis codes on claims for ***the full range of medically necessary Medi-Cal services*** including medical and dental. For specialty mental health and substance use disorder services, use a pregnancy indicator.”

TODAY—SCOPE (CONT'D)

Example 2 from the Automated Eligibility Verification System (AEVS)

Pregnancy-Related Medical
(e.g., Aid Code M9)

“Medi-Cal eligible for pregnancy/postpartum related medical svcs w/no SOC/spend down. If subscriber is pregnant or postpartum, use pregnancy diagnosis codes on claims for ***the full range of medically necessary Medi-Cal services*** including medical and dental. For specialty mental health and substance use disorder services, use a pregnancy indicator. . .”

TODAY: PHE MORATORIUM ON NEGATIVE ACTIONS IN MEDI-CAL AND MCAP

- Due to the COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE), there has been a moratorium on Medi-Cal “negative actions”, so the rule has been no discontinuances *since March 2020*.
- Three exceptions: death; gave up CA residence; or requested disenrollment

TODAY: MORATORIUM (CONT'D)

What does the Moratorium on negative actions mean for people in “Pregnancy-Related” or “Restricted” (emergency/pregnancy-related) Medi-Cal?

Full breadth of Medi-Cal services continues after the end of the 60-day postpartum period during the PHE.

See MCHA Fact Sheet

JANUARY 1: POST-PHE

- The state has been planning for the PHE to end by December 31, 2021. **Will it?**
- Whenever the PHE ends, the counties will resume “annual” Medi-Cal eligibility redeterminations—including catching up on the ones that haven’t been done since March 2020.
- BUT the counties/state will continue Medi-Cal for anyone who is identified as either currently pregnant or “recently” pregnant.
 - We think “recently” means within the past 12 months. Waiting for confirmation. Stay tuned.

JANUARY 1: POST-PHE (CONT'D)

- So it's super important for beneficiaries in "Restricted" (emergency/pregnancy-related) or Full Scope Medi-Cal to let the county know if they are pregnant or have been so they don't miss out on this protection.
- The state has drafted a flyer.
- We've asked that it be mailed out to every beneficiary in those aid codes.

JANUARY 1: MANAGED CARE EXPANSION

- Starting January 1, 2022, all citizens and lawfully present pregnant applicants (not existing beneficiaries) will have to get their Medi-Cal from a managed care plan.
- Compare today: if income is over the limit for Full Scope for adults (138% of poverty), pregnant individuals go into “regular” (aka “fee-for-service”) Medi-Cal (with income to 213%).

JANUARY 1: MANAGED CARE (CONT'D)

- What if the person already has a provider for their pregnancy care who does not contract with any available Medi-Cal managed care plan but does take regular Medi-Cal?
 - The person can ask the state for a “Medical Exemption Request” (MER)—in other words, ask to be exempt from going into managed care due to the pregnancy. If the MER is granted, the person can stay in regular Medi-Cal.
- Pregnancy alone should be enough to qualify for a MER. But will the state require more? Such as some other medical condition that complicates the pregnancy? We’ve asked for the rules.

APRIL 1: 12-MONTH POST-PREGNANCY ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDI-CAL AND MCAP

- 12 months continuous Medi-Cal or MCAP coverage after the last day of pregnancy, instead of the current 60-day postpartum period
 - Will provide full scope coverage
 - Available to all beneficiaries identified as pregnant or having been pregnant
 - So need to make sure that people in Restricted or Full Scope let the county know about the pregnancy

APRIL 1: 12-MONTH POST-PREGNANCY ELIGIBILITY (CONT'D)

- Can report the pregnancy during or after, for example, when registering the newborn for a Medi-Cal number.
- But best to report the pregnancy as soon as possible so the person doesn't miss out.
- Immigration status doesn't matter.
- Doesn't matter if your Medi-Cal was "Restricted".
- Doesn't matter if the pregnancy ended through miscarriage or abortion.

APRIL 1: 12-MONTH POST-PREGNANCY ELIGIBILITY (CONT'D)

- **CPSP:** Medi-Cal's Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program benefits should be covered during the additional 10 months.
- Working with the state on this. Especially important for social determinants of health issues addressed by Comprehensive Perinatal Health Workers (CPHWs).
- Also need to clarify that Medi-Cal will reimburse for the preventive services of the CPHWs when provided in the beneficiary's home or elsewhere in the community, not just at a clinic or doctor's office.

JULY 1: THREE NEW MEDI-CAL & MCAP BENEFITS TAKING EFFECT

State is taking comments to develop Medi-Cal coverage for:

- Community Health Worker services
- Doula services: “Why doulas aren’t happy with the state”:
<https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/article255204991.html>
- Dyadic services: mental health for parents, children, and other family members

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 (STARTS JULY 1, 2022)

Advocacy to adopt:

- Funding for Community-Based Health Navigators
- Continuous Medi-Cal for children until the 5th birthday

THANK YOU!!

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