



1111 W. Sixth Street, Suite 400  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-1800  
Tel 213. 749.4261  
Fax 213. 745.1040  
[info@mchaccess.org](mailto:info@mchaccess.org)  
[www.mchaccess.org](http://www.mchaccess.org)

10/08/2021

## Emergency and Pregnancy Medi-Cal During and After the COVID Public Health Emergency

- Emergency and Pregnancy (also called “Restricted”) Medi-Cal cover full services during pregnancy. (See the two example provider messages on the next page.)
- Full services are also covered beyond the 60-day postpartum or other post-pregnancy period during the public health emergency, which will last at least until December 31.
- Emergency and pregnancy Medi-Cal can also be used to pay bills for full Medi-Cal services back to April 2020 if the person was enrolled when the service was received.
- Please contact [pregnancy@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:pregnancy@dhcs.ca.gov) or let MCH Access know if help is needed for a pregnant or postpartum individual with Medi-Cal that is restricted to emergencies or pregnancy to:
  - get a provider to render services that full Medi-Cal covers; or
  - cover bills incurred for services while Medi-Cal was active, back to April 2020.

### Important Heads Up for People in Emergency or Full Scope Medi-Cal – Report the pregnancy!

Medi-Cal has been continued automatically for most people since April 2020 because of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The PHE could end January 1, 2022. After that, the counties will start redetermining Medi-Cal eligibility.

- If the county knows a person in Emergency or Full Scope Medi-Cal is pregnant or was during the PHE, the person will:
  - automatically keep their Medi-Cal after January 1 until at least March 31; and
  - after April 1, be reviewed for a new program that covers pregnant beneficiaries for 12 months after the pregnancy ends, no matter how it ends.
- To avoid missing out, people in Emergency or Full Scope Medi-Cal should let the county know as soon as possible about the pregnancy or when it ended. This information should be kept in the case file for the reviews that start January 1.

**Questions?** Please contact MCHA at [info@mchaccess.org](mailto:info@mchaccess.org) or Lucy Quacinella at [lucyqmas@gmail.com](mailto:lucyqmas@gmail.com)

**Examples from the messages providers see  
when checking on eligibility and scope  
through Medi-Cal’s Automated Eligibility Verification System (AEVS)**

**Emergency/Pregnancy-Related (“Restricted”) Medi-Cal.** (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.”

**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. . .”