

DATE: February 5, 2024

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information

Letter No.: I 24-03

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

SUBJECT: Extension of Unwinding Waivers and Flexibilities

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) is to instruct counties on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) timeline extension of unwinding waivers and flexibilities requested by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to assist during the continuous coverage unwinding period. Guidance in this MEDIL applies to waivers under Section 1902(e)(14)(A) of the Social Security Act and flexibilities made available through existing authority.

### **Background**

On June 13, 2023, CMS published additional “Strategies to Prevent Procedural Terminations” that states may request to assist in addressing the challenges as part of the transition to routine operations. CMS can authorize these strategies under Section 1902(e)(14)(A) of the Social Security Act (“1902(e)(14)(A) Strategies”). To identify further opportunities beyond these strategies, DHCS worked with the County Welfare Director’s Association (CWDA) and counties. For some strategies, CMS has identified existing authority can be leveraged and an 1902(e)(14)(A) waiver is not needed.

A table of the unwinding waivers and flexibilities is available as an attachment to this letter.

### **Extension of Unwinding Waivers and Flexibilities**

On December 18, 2023, the CMS released a [CMCS Informational Bulletin](#) regarding maintaining coverage under Medi-Cal for children. On page 5, this bulletin also extended all unwinding waivers and flexibilities past the end of the unwinding period and through December 31, 2024. The extension is effectively immediately and applies to both unwinding annual renewals and post-unwinding renewals (those for June 2024 and forward).

DHCS will provide additional guidance in future when the unwinding waivers and flexibilities end and if any are expected to continue.

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If you have any questions, or if we can provide further information, please contact Kathryn Floto by phone at (916) 345-8076 or by email at [Kathryn.Floto@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Floto@dhcs.ca.gov).

Original Signed By,

Yingjia Huang  
Assistant Deputy Director  
Health Care and Benefits  
Department of Health Care Services

Attachment

### Attachment A: Continuous Coverage Unwinding Waiver and Flexibility Reference Chart

The table below is for county reference regarding various 1902(e)(14) waivers and other unwinding-related flexibilities.

Waiver or Flexibility	Authority	Letter
MAGI Medi-Cal Reasonable Compatibility Threshold Increase	MAGI Verification Plan	<a href="#">ACWDL 22-17</a>
Reasonable Explanation	MAGI Verification Plan	<a href="#">ACWDL 22-22</a>
Partnering with Managed Care Plans to Update Beneficiary Contact Information	1902(e)(14)(A)	<a href="#">MEDIL 22-20E</a>
Partnering with Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Organizations to Update Beneficiary Contact Information	1902(e)(14)(A)	<a href="#">MEDIL 22-45</a>
Partnering with the National Change of Address Database and United States Postal Service In-State Forwarding Address to Update Contact Information	1902(e)(14)(A)	<a href="#">MEDIL 22-45</a>
Asset Test Waiver	1902(e)(14)(A)	<a href="#">MEDIL 23-19</a>
Ex Parte Renewal for Individuals With Zero Income Waiver	1902(e)(14)(A)	<a href="#">MEDIL 23-21E</a>
State Fair Hearings Waiver Flexibilities	1902(e)(14)(A)	<a href="#">MEDIL 23-26</a>
Ex Parte Renewal for Individuals With Income at or Below 100 Percent of the Federal Poverty Limit Waiver	1902(e)(14)(A)	<a href="#">MEDIL 23-40</a>
Hard-to-Reach Population Redetermination Flexibility	1902(e)(14)(A)	<a href="#">MEDIL 23-40</a>
Unconditionally Available Income Requirement Waiver	1902(e)(14)(A)	<a href="#">MEDIL 23-42</a>
Stable Income Waiver	1902(e)(14)(A)	<a href="#">MEDIL 23-42</a>
Medical Support Enforcement Waiver	1902(e)(14)(A)	<a href="#">MEDIL 23-44</a>
Ex Parte Without Returned Renewal Packet Flexibility	MAGI Verification Plan	<a href="#">MEDIL 23-49E</a>