

DATE: May 2, 2023

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 23-32

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS  
ALL COUNTY MEDS LIAISONS  
ALL CONSORTIA/SAWS PROJECT MANAGERS

**SUBJECT: PROCESSING MINOR CONSENT DURING THE CONTINUOUS COVERAGE UNWINDING PERIOD**

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) is to provide information to counties on resuming normal case processing for Minor Consent, as a result of being held in coverage during the Continuous Coverage Period.

**BACKGROUND**

California Family Code provides that a minor may, without parental consent, receive services related to sexual assault, pregnancy and pregnancy-related services, family planning, sexually transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol abuse, and outpatient mental health treatment and counseling.

DHCS categorizes minor consent services by age as follows:

**UNDER AGE 12:**

- pregnancy and pregnancy-related care
- family planning services
- sexual assault services

**AGE 12 YEARS AND OLDER:**

- sexually transmitted diseases treatment
- drug and alcohol abuse treatment/counseling
- mental health outpatient care
- pregnancy and pregnancy-related care
- family planning services
- sexual assault services

These services a minor may receive on his/her own are referred to as "minor consent services."

Article 4V of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual clarifies that minor consent eligibility is for a period of one month, except for covered outpatient mental health services as recommended by a mental health professional. Children receiving minor consent services are required to report changes, which may affect their eligibility, to their County Eligibility Worker (CEW) each month. Since the beginning of the PHE in March 2020, children receiving minor consent services were held in coverage after the month of eligibility.

### **PROCESSING MINOR CONSENT**

CEWs should resume processing minor consent cases on a month-to-month basis following guidance provided in MEDIL [I21-09](#), allowing for telephonic flexibilities for applicants. Due to the continuous coverage policy, some minors have been held in coverage without a month-to-month check-in with the CEW. Unless the minor reestablishes month-to-month eligibility during the continuous coverage unwinding period, eligibility should be terminated effective the month following the minors next birthday.

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY OF MINOR CONSENT**

All minor consent cases are confidential, and parents are not to be contacted regarding their child's receipt of the requested services. A minor must apply for minor consent services. Parent(s) may not apply on behalf of their minor child. Whether applying or renewing eligibility for the Minor Consent program in person or over the phone, contact shall ONLY be directed to the minor applying for or renewing services and the confidentiality requirement shall not be waived under any circumstance. Notices of Action or paper BIC cards shall not be sent to the home address, to preserve the confidentiality of the minor's case.

For additional information on the Minor Consent program, please contact Daryl Hightower by email at [Daryl.Hightower@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Daryl.Hightower@dhcs.ca.gov).

Original Signed By

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