

DATE: February 29, 2024

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 24-08

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

SUBJECT: AFGHAN AND UKRAINIAN PAROLEE ELIGIBILITY
(REFERENCE MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY DIVISION INFORMATION
LETTERS [I 22-04E](#), [I 22-16](#), AND [I 22-30](#))

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter is to clarify the full scope Medi-Cal eligibility of eligible Afghan and Ukrainian parolees when their evacuee coverage ends.

Background

To address the needs of Afghan and Ukrainian parolees impacted by the evacuation of Afghanistan and the war in Ukraine, the federal government extended full scope Medi-Cal and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) to eligible persons who met certain other requirements. DHCS guidance issued in 2022 provided that new Afghan and Ukrainian arrivals prior to September 30, 2023 were eligible for Medi-Cal and RMA to the same extent as refugees if all requirements were met (See [MEDIL I 22-04E](#), [I 22-16](#), and [I 22-30](#)).

Afghan parolee eligibility

As explained in [MEDIL I 22-04E](#), certain Afghan parolees, and their relatives, were eligible for Medi-Cal and RMA to the same extent as refugees if they entered the United States with parole between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2023.

Ukrainian parolee eligibility

As per [MEDIL I 22-16](#) and [MEDIL I 22-30](#), certain Ukrainian citizens and nationals and non-Ukrainian individuals who last habitually resided in Ukraine were eligible for full scope Medi-Cal or RMA to the same extent as refugees if they entered the United States with parole between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2023.

Review for Other Eligibility

If a member loses the eligibility established per [MEDIL I 22-04E](#), [I 22-16](#), or [I 22-30](#) counties are reminded, (in accordance with current Medi-Cal policy), to determine eligibility for any other programs before terminating those benefits with proper notice.

Effective January 1, 2024, all eligible individuals receive full scope Medi-Cal regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. Therefore, as counties evaluate the ongoing eligibility of this population, it is important to grant full scope Medi-Cal coverage to otherwise eligible individuals. For those with ongoing eligibility it is important to ensure that the record is updated to reflect proper immigration status coding in MEDS and SAWS. For any months prior to January 2024, Afghan and Ukrainian Medi-Cal members who lose eligibility for the benefits described in MEDIL I 22-04E or I-22-30, may claim PRUCOL when that is necessary because they are not full scope eligible under another immigration status.

Coding for Afghan and Ukrainian Parolees with Expired Status paroled under Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 212(d)(5)

- **Immigrants paroled under Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 212(d)(5) for a year or more** —These immigrants are Qualified Immigrants eligible for full scope Medi-Cal if otherwise eligible. In order to correctly claim federal funding, these immigrants must be coded with a “W” in the Citizen/Alien Indicator Code field and should include the date they were granted parole status in the INS Entry/Grant-Date field.
- **Immigrants paroled under INA section 212(d)(5) for less than one year** — These immigrants are eligible for full scope Medi-Cal under the PRUCOL category specific to parolees if otherwise eligible. They must be coded with a “Y” in the Citizen/Alien Indicator Code field in MEDS.
- **Immigrants who claim PRUCOL**—Immigrants who claim PRUCOL but are not lawfully present must be coded with an “S” in the Citizen/Alien indicator Code field in MEDS if they are in a documented PRUCOL status, and with a “T” if they claim PRUCOL under the last category on the MC 13 Statement of Citizenship, Alienage, and Immigration Status.

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 24-08

Page 3

February 29, 2024

If you have any questions about this letter, or if we can provide further information, please contact Buck Harris, by phone at (916) 345-8162 or by email at Buck.Harris@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Sarah Crow, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division
Department of Health Care Services