

DATE: November 22, 2024

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information

Letter No.: I 24-28

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

SUBJECT: THE NEWBORN GATEWAY

Reference: All County Welfare Director's Letters: [03-49](#), [09-17](#), [09-27](#) and [11-33](#); [24-09](#), [24-09E](#) and Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter [22-18](#).

Purpose

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter is to inform counties of the change in procedure for infants deemed eligible through the Newborn Gateway. Going forward, infants deemed eligible via the Newborn Gateway will be given a "B1" Health Care Plan (HCP) enrollment status code, linking the infant to the mother's HCP and capitation payment for the birth month and the month following birth, when the mother has active HCP enrollment.

Background

Effective July 1, 2024, Qualified Providers (QPs) participating in Presumptive Eligibility are required to report births of newborns with eligibility to Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Access Infant Program (MCAIP) born in their facilities within 72 hours after birth or 24 hours after discharge, whichever is sooner. For the purposes of Newborn Gateway, newborns with eligibility are those whose mothers were active Medi-Cal or Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP) members at the time of birth.

QPs report eligible births through an electronic Newborn Gateway application located within the enrollment section of the Medi-Cal Provider Portal. These newborns are eligible for full-scope coverage from their date of birth until their first birthday, regardless to any changes in circumstances.

Newborn Gateway Eligibility

Infants deemed eligible through the Newborn Gateway are assigned aid codes 8U or E8. There is no difference in scope of coverage or services between these aid codes.

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- Eligibility under aid code 8U represents eligibility for infants born to mothers with active Medi-cal. This aid code will utilize existing Deemed Infant alerts to notify the County of the birth. Counties will follow all Deemed Infant policies when establishing eligibility in California Statewide Automated System (CalSAWS).
- Eligibility under aid code E8 represents eligibility to the Medi-Cal Access Infant Program (MCAIP) and are infants born to mothers who are active MCAP members. MCAIP infants are case managed by an Administrative Vendor (AV). Upon receipt of the infant's birth, the AV will ensure they are protected from birth until their renewal at their first birthday following existing policies.

Change in Procedure

From the date of implementation, July 1, 2024, newborns enrolled through the Newborn Gateway were placed into the Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service (FFS) delivery system until the family chose or was defaulted into a Medi-Cal managed care plan.

As of November 26, 2024, newborns placed in coverage through the Newborn Gateway will be enrolled directly into their mother's Health Care Plan (HCP) at the time of birth. Infants will continue to receive their own unique CIN, and all services administered to the infant should be billed to the infant's unique CIN. This only applies to infants born to mothers who are active on an HCP at the time of birth.

Births reported through the Newborn Gateway Portal will be given a "B1" HCP enrollment status code linking the infant to the mothers HCP and capitation payment for the birth month and the month following birth, when the mother has an active HCP enrollment.

Infants born to mothers who are enrolled in the FFS delivery system will receive coverage through FFS until an HCP is chosen.

If you have any questions, or if we may provide further information, please contact the Newborn Gateway inbox by email at NewbornGateway@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Sarah Crow, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division