

Retroactive Medi-Cal Q&A



QUESTION #1	An individual's SSI/SSP is filed and approved in April 1994. He submits a written request to the County in January 1995 for retro Medi-Cal for January through March, 1994. Can he get retro Medi-Cal for these months?
ANSWER	<p>Yes, January through March 1994 are the three months immediately preceding his SSI month of application. If otherwise eligible, he may receive retroactive Medi-Cal for these months.</p> <p>If the required Medi-Cal linkage is disability and the individual is not receiving or approved for Social Security (Title II) disability benefits for the period in question, a full disability packet to the Disability Determination Services Division (SP-DDSD) will be necessary to determine whether he meets the disability requirements for the retro months. If SP-DDSD approves disability from January 1994, and he is otherwise eligible, he is entitled to Medi-Cal for the retro months.</p>
QUESTION #2	An individual's SSI/SSP application is approved April 1994. He submits a written request to the County in February 1995 for retroactive Medi-Cal for the months of January through March 1994. Can he get retro Medi-Cal for these months?
ANSWER	He can only get retro benefits for February and March 1994. An application for retro Medi-Cal coverage must be submitted within one year of the month for which retro coverage is requested. It is now too late to be found eligible for January 1994 since it exceeds the one year period. The procedures are the same as discussed in Answer 1.
QUESTION #3	An individual submits a written request for retro Medi-Cal in April 1995, for April through June 1994. She applied for SSI in July 1994 but was denied. Can she get retro Medi-Cal for those months?
ANSWER	<p>The individual must verify that she made an application for SSI in July 1994. Once that is verified the worker must determine if she would have been eligible for one of the Medi-Cal programs listed in MPG Article 5, Section 1. If otherwise eligible she may receive retro Medi-Cal for those months.</p> <p>If she is applying on the basis of disability, the worker should check the "SSA Client Referral Chart" in Desk Aid 21 to determine if a disability packet should be sent to SP-DDSD, as there are specific situations where SP-DDSD cannot make an independent decision on a previously denied SSA claim. If SP-DDSD is sent a full disability packet for an independent decision and determines that she is disabled from April 1994, and she is otherwise eligible, the worker can approve Medi-Cal for the retro months.</p>
QUESTION #4	An individual applies for SSI/SSP in January 1995, but is denied in February. She applies for Medi-Cal in March. The county denies her Medi-Cal application because the "SSA Client Referral Chart" shows that SSA has jurisdiction over the claim. However, SSA subsequently approves her SSI/SSP claim in August 1995 with an onset date of January 1995. She informs the county that she still needs retro Medi-Cal for November and December 1994. What action should the worker take?
ANSWER	If she is applying on the basis of disability, the worker shall send a full disability packet, including the SSA award letter to SP-DDSD. If SP-DDSD sets the onset date to November 1994, the worker shall rescind the original Medi-Cal denial and approve retro Medi-Cal if she is otherwise eligible.
QUESTION #5	An individual applies for SSI/SSP based on disability in July 1995 and is approved by SSA with a July 1995 disability onset date. However, SSA found that he had excess income for July and August, so the effective date of his SSI/SSP eligibility is September 1995. He then applies for Medi-Cal stating he needs help with unpaid medical bills from April 1995. What action should the worker take?
ANSWER	Although the client was technically denied by SSA for July and August 1995 on the basis of excess income, since there is verification of a disability onset date of July 1995, he would be eligible for those two months if he was otherwise eligible for Medi-Cal. The worker should send a full disability packet to SP-DDSD requesting a retro onset evaluation for the months of April through June 1995. If SP-DDSD determines that he meets the disability criteria from April 1995 forward, and he is otherwise eligible, the worker can approve retro Medi-Cal effective April 1995.