# Children's Special Zero SOC Programs Questions & Answers

| | QUESTION | ANSWER |
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| **1** | If a pregnant woman has income of her own and is married to a man receiving disability benefits (not SSI), how is the income to be treated? | To determine the family's share of cost under the regular MI/MN program, the ABD deductions would be allowed. However, to determine the woman's eligibility under the Income Disregard program, the AFDC-MN deductions are applied to their income. No deductions for the aged, blind or disabled (ABD) are allowed. |
| **2** | Same situation as #1 except the husband is in LTC. How are the MFBUs determined? | There are two MFBUs. The maintenance need for the mom and the unborn will be for two people. The husband will be in his own MFBU and will receive a maintenance need amount of $35 for his LTC status. |
| **3** | Can a woman become initially entitled to the Income Disregard or Asset Waiver program during the 60-day postpartum period or during one of the three retroactive months prior to the month of application? | Yes, if otherwise eligible, she may become initially entitled to the programs during or prior to the 60-day postpartum period. For example, if a pregnant woman's initial Medi-Cal application is made three months after the month the pregnancy ended she still could be eligible for the Income Disregard program. This is unlike the actual 60-day postpartum program (aid code 76) where the woman must have filed for, been eligible for, and received Medi-Cal in the month of delivery.<br><br>For example, mother, father, and an infant apply for Medi-Cal in July and request retroactive coverage for April, May and June. The baby was born in March. The father is fully employed and has no linkage. In April and May, the mother has linkage via the Income Disregard program which covers women during pregnancy and the 60 postpartum days. Assuming she and the infant meet the requirements for the Income Disregard program in April and May, both are covered. In June, there is no linkage for the mother and she is discontinued. The infant's eligibility continues if otherwise eligible.<br><br>If the family's income had been above the 200% of the FPL mom would not have been eligible for the Income Disregard program, nor would she be eligible for the Postpartum program because she did not receive Medi-Cal during her last month of pregnancy (Note: if she received retroactive Medi-Cal during the last month of pregnancy, or had a SOC in that month which was not met, she could not be eligible for the Postpartum program either). |

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| **4** | Infant is over one year old, has been an inpatient continuously since before the age of one, continues to be an inpatient beyond the age of one, and has been eligible under the Income Disregard program. The family income subsequently exceeds the 200% limit and the infant is discontinued from this program. If the family's income later drops to within the 200 percent limits and there has been no change in the infant's inpatient status, may the infant re-establish eligibility under the Income Disregard program? | No, the child had a break in eligibility and cannot re-establish eligibility under the Income Disregard program beyond the age of one year. This would hold true regardless of the reason for discontinuance (e.g., excess property, etc.). However, the child should be evaluated under the 133 Percent program. |
| **5** | Infant is over one year old, has been an inpatient continuously since before the age of one, continues to be an inpatient beyond the age of one, and has been eligible under the Income Disregard program. The family income subsequently drops to an amount which is at or below the maintenance need level. Will the worker need to change the aid code from the Income Disregard program to the regular MI/MN program code with a zero share of cost or the 133 Percent program if there is a share of cost? | No, infants over one year old receiving inpatient services are the only exception to the rule under which infants who would have no share of cost are to receive cards under the regular MI/MN program. This exception makes it administratively easier to ensure that the otherwise eligible infant remains on the Income Disregard program should family income later increase where there would be a share of cost but family income does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level.<br><br>Example: Infant is 14 months old and has been receiving continuous inpatient services since prior to age one. He has been eligible for benefits with no share of cost under the Income Disregard program since birth. His family now has a drop in income to an amount which is below the maintenance need level. The worker shall not change the infant's aid code to the regular MI/MN program because the infant would receive the same scope of benefits with no share of cost under either program.<br><br>Two months later the family's income rises above the maintenance need level but not over 200% of the federal poverty level. The worker will not need to review the case history to verify Income Disregard program eligibility prior to age one or make any changes to the infant's record since his aid code had not been changed. |

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| **6** | When a pregnant woman has two Medi-Cal cards, one with the Income Disregard program aid code and the second card with a regular MI/MN aid code, which card should she present to the doctor? | If the services she received were pregnancy related, she may use either card though it would be preferable to bill the services under the Income Disregard card so that program costs can be identified. If the services are not pregnancy related, she must use the regular share-of-cost Medi-Cal card. |
| **7** | What will happen if a timely 10-day notice is not issued to terminate the infant/child due to the attainment of the maximum age (one/six/nineteen)? | A 10-day notice is always required for adverse actions. If a 10-day notice was not sent in time and MEDS has already terminated the record, the worker will need to ask the MEDS operator to input an ESAC code of 9 with a termination date to allow for the extra month(s) needed to issue the 10-day notice of action. |
| **8** | Are Medicare premiums considered health insurance premiums? | Yes, parts A and B of Medicare are considered health insurance premiums. Therefore, under the Percent programs no deductions are allowed for Medicare premiums regardless of whether the beneficiary is paying it directly or if the State is paying the premium. |
| **9** | When a pregnant woman who is eligible under the Income Disregard program delivers her baby and the newborn will be the only person left on the MFBU as a Medi-Cal eligible, how soon after delivery must the worker obtain a new application? | Infants born to Medi-Cal eligible women are automatically deemed eligible for one year (Continued Eligibility), provided certain criteria are met. In this case, a separate application form, MC 13, and Social Security number are not required until the infant attains age one. |
| **10** | Will the workers be required to verify continuous inpatient status for the infant/child over one/six/nineteen? | The workers are not required to verify continuous inpatient services for infants over one year old. The workers will continue with their current verification procedures. However, the workers are cautioned that the potential for an overpayment exists if verification is not done. Remember, MEDS will send out alerts at 6 month intervals to remind the workers to verify continuing eligibility. Therefore, if the worker does not verify continuing eligibility, a potential overpayment situation may exist for 6 months or longer. |