

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS)A)  
Medi-Cal Program Guide Letter**

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**Issue date:**

12/3/2014

**Effective date:**

Upon Receipt

**Background:**

RMA provides time-limited health coverage to refugees who lack categorical linkage to Medi-Cal because they were not aged, blind or disabled, children, pregnant women or parents of deprived children. RMA beneficiaries must be found ineligible to any other Medi-Cal program prior to granting RMA and must meet all other Medi-Cal requirements. The income limit for RMA is 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

**Policy:**

ACA changes expanded Medi-Cal coverage to single adults between ages 19-64 with income below 138% of FPL. Effective 1/1/2014, most individuals who were RMA eligible in the past are now eligible to this new adult group and therefore ineligible to RMA. Any existing RMA beneficiary that has not been evaluated for MAGI Medi-Cal must be evaluated by 1/1/15.

When a refugee is determined eligible to Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTC) and has income between 138% and 200% of FPL, they must be offered the option to either be immediately granted APTC or remain on RMA with no cost Medi-Cal for their 8 month RMA period.

**One Time Procedure:**

San Diego generated a list of RMA cases. Each individual was sent a notice of re-evaluation and a Request for Tax Household Information (RFTHI) form. A list of RMA cases that must be re-evaluated for APTC can be found on Sharepoint under the Medi-Cal section in the [RMA Beneficiaries folder](#).

Workers must:

- Review CalWIN and CERMS for each individual on the list for RFTHI.
- If there is RFTHI information, re-evaluate the client for ACA Medi-Cal by re-running EDBC.
- If there is no RFTHI, request the information via phone. If unable to obtain the RFTHI information over the phone, send the RFTHI and the 14-137 informing notice via mail. Follow the [standard verification request timeframes](#) to obtain the RFTHI information. Discontinue the RMA at month 8 if the RFTHI is not obtained.
- When approving Medi-Cal for former RMA beneficiaries, issue notice 14-138.

**Impact/s:**

Notice of Action 14-138 - Approval of Medi-Cal for Refugee Medical Assistance Beneficiaries is available for order on Xerox.

Informing Notice 14-137 - Information Notice for Refugee Medical Assistance Beneficiaries is available for order on Xerox.

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**References:**

ACWDL 14-16 ([link](#))

**Sunset Date:**

12/3/2017

**Approval for release:**



Rick Wanne, Director  
Eligibility Operations

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Agency (HHS) Agency (HHS)**  
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<b>Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) and Entrant Medical Assistance (EMA)</b>	05.08.07	1 of 3

**Issue Date:**

12/3/2014

**Effective Date:**

Upon receipt.

**Background:**

RMA and EMA are forms of humanitarian resettlement assistance that enable refugees without linkage to Medi-Cal to obtain health coverage. The RMA/EMA aid code is 02.

**Policy:**

**05.08.07**

**A. Eligibility Requirements**

- To be eligible to RMA/EMA, refugees must be determined ineligible to any other Medi-Cal program including CalWORKs related Medi-Cal, MAGI, or SSI/SSP. Refugees determined to have no linkage to Medi-Cal must be evaluated for RMA/EMA.
- If any member of the family is eligible to a Medi-Cal program, they must be placed in that program rather than RMA. Families can have some individuals in RMA/EMA and others in Medi-Cal programs.
- Citizen children of refugees are potentially eligible to RMA/EMA benefits if they are determined ineligible to Medi-Cal.
- Full-time students in an institution of higher education are ineligible for RMA/EMA unless it is part of an employability plan developed by a county welfare department or its designee, or is part of a plan for an unaccompanied minor.
- The refugee must provide the name of their resettlement agency to the worker.
- Applicants must meet the federal definition of “refugee” or “entrant” and provide proof of status from one of the following:
  - Conditional Entrant
  - Refugee or Asylee
  - Permanent Resident Status (for those who are now permanent residents who were formerly one of the other categories listed here)
  - Amerasian
  - Cuban/Haitian Entrants
  - Victim of Severe Trafficking

See [Appendix A](#) for a list of appropriate documentation. A secondary SAVE verification is not required for refugees.

- Otherwise eligible refugees with income below 200% of FPL are eligible to Zero SOC Medi-Cal and those with income over 200% of FPL are eligible to RMA with a SOC.
- For RMA, workers must only evaluate income/resources belonging to a refugee at the time of signing the SAWS1 application. Increases after the SAWS1 date will not be counted during the 8 month period. A decrease in income or property will be applied and the budget recalculated.
- The following is not counted in the RMA/EMA income eligibility determination:
  - Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA).

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- In-kind services provided by a sponsor or resettlement agency.
- Resources remaining in the refugee's county of origin.
- Sponsor's income or resources.
- Income earned after the date of application.
- Refugee applicants can spend-down if over the property limits.

**B. RMA and Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTC)**

Refugees with income above 138% of FPL (ineligible to MAGI Medi-Cal M1 aid code) and below 200% are potentially eligible to zero SOC Medi-Cal and Advanced Premium tax credits simultaneously and must be offered the opportunity to either enroll in APTC or continue with zero SOC Medi-Cal for their eight-month RMA/EMA period.

**C. Time Limits**

RMA/EMA is time limited to the shorter of:

- The refugee's first eight months of U.S. residency, beginning with the month of entry.
- The asylee's first eight months of asylum beginning with the month asylum is granted.
- The entrant's first eight months of parole (release from USCIS custody).
- The time period that DHCS determines there is funding available.

The time limit begins with the month of entry, even if the refugee enters on the last day of the month. RMA/EMA benefits continue until the end of the 8 month eligibility period without redetermination or a change in benefits.

**D. Refugee Cash Assistance**

Refugees continue to receive RMA/EMA through their eight-month eligibility period if they are discontinued from RCA for any reason.

**E. Ongoing Medi-Cal Evaluation**

Redetermination for ongoing Medi-Cal must be completed prior to the end of the eight-month time limit and discontinuation of RMA/EMA. See the RMA/EMA Processing guide (link) for redetermination procedures.

Refugees with a diagnosis of Tuberculosis (TB) may be evaluated for TB Medi-Cal if they have no other linkage at the end of their eight-month eligibility period.

**F. Refugees Claiming Disability**

Refugees who claim disability at application must have a DDSD determination. If disability is established during the eight-month RMA/EM eligibility period, the refugee must be placed in the appropriate disability based aid code, if otherwise eligible. RMA/EMA beneficiaries who claim disability at the end of their eligibility period are not eligible for Medi-Cal benefits a Pending Disability Determination.

**G. Victims of Trafficking  
Definition**

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- Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude or slavery to repay a debt.

Adults and children identified as victims of severe forms of trafficking and family members of the victims are entitled to be treated as refugees for the receipt of RMA/EMA benefits. See the RMA/EMA Processing Guide for required actions including reporting requirements for victims of trafficking.

**H. Sponsored Aliens**

Those identified as refugees, asylees, Victims of a Severe Form of Trafficking or a Cuban/Haitian Entrant are exempt from sponsored alien regulations.

**References:** (link, if possible)

[MEPM PROC 24-A](#)

[MEPM PROC 24-B](#)

[MEPM LTR 285](#)

[ACWDL 09-46](#)

[ACWDL 94-15](#)

[ACWDL 01-49](#)

[ACWDL 08-34](#)

[ACWDL 05-03](#)

[ACWDL 14-16](#)

**Sunset Date:**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12/3/2017.

# County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)

## Processing Guide 15 - Refugee Medi-Cal Assistance (RMA)

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### Purpose:

To provide process guidance for tasks related to RMA

### Background:

RMA provides time limited health coverage to refugees who lack categorical linkage to Medi-Cal because they are not aged, blind or disabled, children, pregnant women or parents of deprived children. RMA beneficiaries must be found ineligible to any other Medi-Cal program prior to granting RMA and must meet all other Medi-Cal requirements. The income limit for RMA is 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

### Release Date:

12/3/2014

### Actions:

#### A. Determining Date of Entry

Use the following requirements for determining the Date of Entry:

<b>If the applicant is a/an...</b>	<b>Then use the...</b>
refugee, Cuban/Haitian Entrant, or Amerasian Asylee,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• date of entry indicated on USCIS documents as the first month of entry.</li><li>• month that they were granted asylum as the date of entry.</li></ul>
citizen child of a refugee,	date of entry of the parent.  If two parents, use the Date of Entry of the parent who arrived in the U.S. last.
victim of trafficking, or family members that are eligible to be treated as refugees,	date of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Certification Letter</li><li>• T Visa</li><li>• Entry stamped on the passport or I-94 Arrival Record</li><li>• Notice Date on the I-797, Notice of Action of approval of the Visa.</li></ul>

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### **B. Ongoing Medi-Cal Evaluation for RMA Beneficiaries**

The redetermination shall include the following procedures:

- Send DHCS 7110 Discontinuance for RMA/EMA Notice of Action and a SSAP to the RMA/EMA beneficiary no later than 60 days before the end of the eight-month eligibility period.
- Request additional information from the beneficiary regarding changes in income, property, medical condition, disability status, or household composition.
- RMA/EMA beneficiaries are not required to re-submit information they have already provided if that information has not changed.
- The beneficiary will continue to receive Medi-Cal until the redetermination is completed. If the redetermination is not complete by the end of the eight-month time limit, benefits will be continued until the redetermination is completed. Use the appropriate Medically Indigent Aid Code that matches the RMA aid code until complete. Do not extend RMA/EMA aid code past the 8 month limit.
- RMA/EMA beneficiaries who claim disability status at any time during the eight-month time limit will be required to complete a DDSD evaluation. The beneficiary is entitled to continuing Medi-Cal benefits, according to [MPG 05.04.07](#), while the DDSD evaluation is being completed.
- Document the result of the redetermination in the case narrative. Timely notice of action must be mailed out prior to discontinuance of benefits.

**NOTE:** Under no circumstances is eligibility to continue in the RMA/EMA aid code beyond the eight-month federal time limit.

### **C. Refugee Coding Requirements**

Ensure all RMA/EMA beneficiaries have the proper coding in CalWIN:

- USCIS entry date (date of entry for refugees and date asylum is granted for asylees)
- Alien registration number
- Country of origin
- Refugee/alien status

### **D. Victims of Trafficking Procedures**

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) will certify victims who are willing to assist in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers. Victims must have applied for a visa under Section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and have not been denied or have remained in the U.S. by the request of the Attorney General in order to bring about prosecution of traffickers.

Adults who are victims of severe forms of trafficking will be given a Certificate ([Appendix B](#)) and children under 18 years of age will be given a Letter ([Appendix C](#)). ORR is the only agency authorized to issue the Certificate and Letter, which will be used as documentation for eligibility to RMA/EMA.

Take the following steps in determining eligibility for victims of trafficking:

- Accept the original Certificate or Letter in lieu of USCIS documentation. USCIS documentation is

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not required for these applicants. A copy of the Certificate or Letter must be retained in the case file. Do not institute SAVE on these individuals as the information is not yet available.

- Call the Trafficking Verification Line at (866) 401-5510 to confirm that the Certificate or Letter is valid and to notify ORR of the benefits for which the applicant has applied.
- Use the Date of Certification or initial eligibility date from the Letter as the Date of Entry for these applicants.
- Follow all other eligibility requirements for RMA/EMA.
- Record the expiration date of the Certificate or Letter in the case narrative. The expiration date is eight months from the date of certification.

### **E. Family Members of Trafficking Victims Procedures**

Family members of trafficking victims, eligible to be treated as refugees, must provide a non-immigrant Derivative T Visa T-2, T-3, T-4 or T-5 as verification of eligibility. The following criteria is used to determine a family member's eligibility:

<b>If the trafficking victim is...</b>	<b>Then the...</b>
under 21 years of age,	derivative T Visa can also be awarded to the individual's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• spouse;</li><li>• children;</li><li>• parents; and</li><li>• unmarried siblings under 18.</li></ul>
21 years of age or over,	individual's spouse and children can also receive a T Visa.

### **F. Reporting Requirements**

Trafficking victims and their family members that qualify for RMA must be reported to ORR. The worker is required to notify ORR by calling the toll-free Trafficking Verification Line at (866) 401-5510.