

Medi-Cal Program Guide Letter #694

December 16, 2009

Subject	UPDATES TO THE CITIZENSHIP/IDENTITY VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL-SCOPE MEDI-CAL
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Effective	Upon receipt
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Reference	ACWDL 09-27, Change Request (CR) 5188
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Purpose	<p>To inform staff of the following updates to the citizenship/identity verification requirements of DRA 2005.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full-scope Medi-Cal shall be issued to otherwise eligible U.S. citizen or U.S. national applicants during their reasonable opportunity period (ROP) while they obtain the required citizenship and identity documents.• Tribal documents issued by federally recognized tribes are acceptable evidence of U.S. citizenship/identity for Native American.
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Background	<p>The Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA), which was signed in to law in February 2009, makes several changes to the DRA citizenship/identity requirements. This Letter provides details on two of those changes.</p> <p>Previously, MPG Letter 631 instructed staff to issue full-scope Medi-Cal to otherwise eligible U.S. citizen or U.S. national applicants who have provided acceptable evidence of citizenship/identity documents. Those who are making good faith effort to provide will remain in ‘pending’ status during their ROP.</p> <p>With this Letter, it is no longer required for U.S. citizen applicants to provide acceptable evidence of citizenship/identity documents prior to receiving full-scope Medi-Cal. Otherwise eligible U.S. citizen applicants will receive full-scope Medi-Cal during their ROP while they obtain the required citizenship/identity documents.</p> <p>For the purpose of this Letter, any reference to “U.S. citizens” should be interpreted as including both U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals.</p>
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This change applies to new and pending applications. DHCS has indicated that instructions on how to apply this change to applicants whose eligibility has been established based on the old rules will be forthcoming.

Additionally, tribal documents issued by federally recognized tribes may be accepted as evidence of U.S. citizenship/identity for Native Americans.

Changes

- For all new and pending Medi-Cal applications, full-scope Medi-Cal shall be issued to otherwise eligible U.S. citizen applicants during their ROP while they obtain the required citizenship/identity documents. This full-scope Medi-Cal must begin as soon as all other eligibility requirements are met and is effective back to the date of application for all months during which the applicant is otherwise eligible. A report has been developed to identify U.S. citizen applicants who are currently in “pending” status and case shows that there is pending citizenship and/or identity verification in CalWIN.
 - Otherwise eligible U.S. citizen applicants who do not provide the required citizenship/identity documents by the end of their ROP will have their benefits reduced to limited scope with adequate and timely notice.
 - Applicants who have been determined eligible to one of the Presumptive Eligibility or Accelerated Enrollment programs must be placed in the appropriate full-scope aid code for on-going eligibility as soon as they are found to be otherwise eligible and are making good faith to obtain the required citizenship/identity documents.
 - Tribal documents issued by federally recognized tribes are acceptable evidence of U.S. citizenship/identity for Native American.
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Required Action

Workers must take the following actions:

- Issue full-scope Medi-Cal benefits to otherwise eligible U.S. citizen applicants during their ROP while they obtain the required citizenship/identity documents.
- Reduce an otherwise eligible U.S. citizen applicant’s full-scope to limited-scope at the end of his/her ROP when the applicant stops making good faith effort to obtain the required CIT/ID documents. Ten-day NOA is required.
- Review the attached list and issue full-scope Medi-Cal benefits to applicants who are currently in “pending” status because they are attempting to obtain the required U.S. citizenship and/or identity

documents **AND** have met all other Medi-Cal eligibility requirements, including linkage.

- Accept documents issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe verifying membership, enrollment in, or affiliation with, such tribe (such as a tribal enrollment card or certificate of degree of Indian blood) as acceptable evidence of U.S. citizenship/identity.

**Important
Reminder**

Definition of reasonable opportunity period, as defined in MPG Letter 631, has NOT changed. Reasonable opportunity period continues to be defined as the time needed for the applicants to provide the required citizenship/identity documents and shall be based on the applicant's circumstances, ability to obtain the document, and good faith effort.

Additionally, documentation guidelines of good faith efforts also have not changed. Applicants may provide oral or written statements of their efforts to obtain evidence of citizenship and/or identity. Workers are to continue documenting these efforts, including any basis for a determination that the applicant is or is not making good faith. Refer to MPG 4-7-13F for details.

Lastly, the regulation which allows for full-scope Medi-Cal to be restored after limited scope has been granted also has not changed. Refer to MPG 4-13-9 for details.

**Automation
Impact**

Workers are to follow current established bottom line override procedures until CR 5188 is implemented in CalWIN. Contact the Operational Support Help Desk for assistance.

Forms Impact

The following form and notices are revised as a result of the changes outlined in this Letter.

- DHCS 0001 - U.S. Citizens and Nationals Applying for Medi-Cal Must Show Proof of Citizenship and Identity
- MC 239 DRA 3 - Change to Limited Benefits No SOC
- MC 239 DRA 4 - Change to Limited Benefits Share of Cost

Until SR 21603 is resolved, the revised form and notices are available on iWAY. Staff are instructed to use the revised form and notices.

**Imaging
Impact**

Until the revised MC 239 DRA 3 and MC 239 DRA 4 are available in CalWIN, staff shall image the shelf-stock notices using template #16-140.

Quality Assurance Impact

Effective with the December 2009 review month, Quality Assurance will cite with the appropriate error any case that does not follow the requirement of this Letter.

Summary of Change

Article	Change
Article 4 Section 7	Updates to the citizenship and identity verification procedures.
Article 7 Section 1 & 2	Updates to the citizenship and identity verification requirements.

Manager Approval



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Self-Sufficiency Programs
Strategic Planning and Operational Support

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