

MEDI-CAL PROGRAM GUIDE LETTER (MPG) #695

November 18, 2009

Subject	IRAQI AND AFGHAN SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND RETROACTIVE ELIGIBILITY FOR REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
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Effective Date	Upon Receipt
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Reference	ACWDL 09-43 AND 09-46
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Purpose	To provide workers with updated information on the term of Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) eligibility for Afghan Special Immigrants (SI) and provide information regarding retroactive eligibility requirements for RMA.
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Background	<p>Afghan SIs were originally given a six-month period of eligibility for RMA. Under a new federal law, as of March 11, 2009, the period of RMA eligibility for Afghan SIs has been extended to eight months.</p> <p>The Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement recently clarified that RMA eligible individuals are eligible for up to three months of retroactive eligibility to the same extent as are Medi-Cal beneficiaries, if otherwise eligible.</p>
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Changes	<p>Eligibility for Afghan SIs that are currently on RMA and still within their new eight-month time limit must have RMA eligibility extended to cover the eight-month time limit if they are otherwise eligible. Afghan SIs who lost RMA eligibility in March 2009 or later based solely on the six-month time limit must have eligibility restored with proper notice.</p> <p>RMA individuals are eligible for up to three months of retroactive eligibility provided that they are otherwise eligible and;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply within their RMA eligibility period.• Meet all RMA eligibility requirements during any retroactive months.• Three (or fewer) months of retroactive eligibility are within their RMA eligibility period.
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**Required
Action**

To ensure that these new requirements are met the worker shall grant all Afghan Sis RMA applicants who apply after March 11, 2009 an eight-month time limit. The worker shall extend the RMA eligibility period for current Afghan Sis beneficiaries to the new eight-month time limits, if otherwise eligible. The worker will restore with proper notice Afghan Sis who lost RMA eligibility in March 2009 or later based solely on the six-month time limits, to assure that they are provided with eight months of RMA eligibility.

The worker shall ensure that these new requirements are met;

If...	Then...
The Afghan Sis applied after March 11, 2009	Allow eight-month time limit for RMA eligibility.
The Afghan Sis is currently RMA and still within this new eight-month time limit	Extend cover to eight-month time limit.
Afghan Sis who lost RMA eligibility in March or later based solely on the six-month limit	Restored eligibility with proper notice to assure that they are provided with eight-month time limit of RMA.
Afghan Sis who lost eligibility prior to March 2009 based solely on the previous six-month RMA limit	Do nothing they are not eligible for additional RMA coverage.

Iraqi and Afghan Sis both have the eligibility terms equal to those of standard RMA cases. Workers shall use the DNCS 7111 Approval notice and the DNCS 7100 discontinuance notice. The DHCS Afghan RMA restoration notice shall be used for Afghan Sis who lost eligibility based solely on the six-month time limit in or after March 2009.

Afghan Sis who lost eligibility prior to March 2009 based solely on the previous six-month RMA time limit is not eligible for additional RMA coverage.

The worker shall review the RMA application for retroactive Medi-Cal requests after January 1, 2009. When the Refugee is within their eight month eligibility period and has not used their entire eight month RMA period, the worker shall contact the beneficiary and advise them of their rights to retroactive benefits, if otherwise eligible. The worker shall enter the contact in case comments and process the retroactive request following policy outlined in Article 13 Section 5.

When an individual with eight months of potential RMA eligibility either;

- Had a USCIS entry date of January 1, 2009, or

- Was granted asylum on January 1, 2009, or
- Adjusted to refugee or SIs domestically (within the U.S.) from some other immigration status on January 1, 2009,

If they,,,	Then....
Applied for RMA on April 1, 2009 (including a request for retroactive eligibility)	He/she would be granted RMA from January 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009. Retroactive RMA is available for 3 months.
Applied for RMA on February 28, 2009 (including a request for retroactive eligibility)	He/she would be granted RMA from January 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009. Retroactive RMA is available only for one month.
Applied for RMA on September 1, 2009 (including a request for retroactive eligibility)	He/she would not be eligible for any retroactive or ongoing RMA benefits. Individual did not apply within the eight-month eligibility period.
Applied for RMA on January 15, 2009 (including a request for retroactive eligibility)	He/she would only be eligible for ongoing RMA. Application date is the same as the USCIS entry date, not eligibility to retroactive months.

Automation Impact None

Forms Impact Iraqi and Afghan SIs both have eligibility terms equal to those of standard RMA cases; workers shall now use the DHCS 7111 Approval notice (Attachment B) and the DHCS 7110 Discontinuance notice (Attachment A). The DHCS Afghan RMA Restoration Notice (Attachment C) shall be used for Afghan SIs who lost eligibility based solely on the six-month time limit in or after March 2009. These notices are available in iWay for order by your stock clerks.

The following Approval and Discontinuance Notices are now obsolete;

- DHCS Iraqi RMA Approval NOA (9/08)
- DHCS Afghan RNA Approval NOA (9/08)
- DHCS Iraqi Discontinuance NOA (9/08) and
- DHCS Afghan Discontinuance NOA (9/08).

Quality Effective with the November 2009 review month. Quality Assurance

**Assurance
Impact**

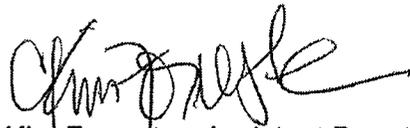
will cite the appropriate error on any case that does not comply with the requirements outlined in this letter.

**Summary of
Changes**

The table below shows the changes made in the MPG.

Section	Summary of Change
Article 5 Section 8.08	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added Retroactive Eligibility for RMA• Added the increase to the Afghan Sis RMA eligibility limits.

**Manager
Approval**



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Strategic Planning and Operational Support

DMH