

Medi-Cal Program Guide (MPG) Special Notice (SN) 13-09 Addendum D

February 20, 2014

Subject HEALTH CARE REFORM (HCR) MEDI-CAL AND LOW INCOME HEALTH PROGRAM (LIHP)

Effective Upon receipt

Reference Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Letters (MEDIL) I 14-02

Purpose To inform staff of the following:

- *Ex Parte* reviews
- Remote Identity Proofing requirements
- Medi-Cal cases discontinued from CalWORKs
- CalFresh application (CF 285)
- Medically Needy with a SOC

Background The Affordable Care Act became law on March 10, 2010. The law enacted comprehensive health insurance reform through the expansion of Medi-Cal, creation of the Health Insurance Exchange, and new regulations for health insurance plans. Special Notice [13-09](#) and [13-09 Addendum A](#) provided information on HCR requirements and application processing.

***Ex Parte* Review of Pending CalHEERS Applications for Medi-Cal**

An *Ex Parte* review is required for all pending Medi-Cal cases in CalHEERS to determine if the applicant is currently receiving CalFresh or CalWORKs benefits, or had a CalFresh or CalWORKs case that closed within 90 days from the CalHEERS application date. If current, the information contained in these cases will be used as verification for the pending Medi-Cal data elements and residency. This *ex parte* review must be conducted by the worker before contacting the applicant or beneficiary and asking them to provide supporting documentation.

If the CalFresh or CalWORKs case was closed more than 90 days before the CalHEERS application, the information in the case cannot be used to determine eligibility for the pending CalHEERS application.

**Remote
Identity
Proofing
Requirements**

Remote Identity Proofing (RIDP) is a required process for online and telephonic Medi-Cal or health insurance affordability program (IAP) applications that must be run through the Federal Data Hub and CalHEERS. RIDP is not required for paper applications since the signature on the application satisfies the RIDP requirement.

RIDP is mandatory for the primary applicant only. Staff will verify RIDP in either of the following ways:

- Complete an *ex parte* review to determine if acceptable identity documentation is on file to serve as RIDP verification; or
- Request identity verification if adequate information is not on file.

Refer to MPG [07.02.04](#) for acceptable identity verifications.

CalWIN cases will not be run through the CalHEERS Business Rules Engine (BRE) if RIDP requirement has not been met. Refer to eHIT [Bulletin #5](#) for RIDP processing in CalWIN.

**Medi-Cal
Cases
Discontinued
from
CalWORKs**

CalWORKs recipients who are discontinued from CalWORKs but remain eligible to continuing Medi-Cal will be placed in the appropriate aid code until the next redetermination.

Cases that have a Medi-Cal redetermination due between January and April 2014 will not be mailed a packet until the redetermination process resumes. At that time, the Request for Tax Household Information (RFTHI) form will be auto mailed with the RRR packet. For cases that are not included in the auto mailing process, workers will mail the RFTHI form to collect the necessary information to make an eligibility determination for all health insurance programs, including:

- Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Medi-Cal
- Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTCs)
- Cost Sharing Reductions (CSRs)
- Unsubsidized coverage

If a CalWORKs recipient is discontinued for reasons that could affect their Medi-Cal eligibility, the Medi-Cal change in circumstances process must be completed. The Medi-Cal change in circumstance redetermination process will be prescribed in a forthcoming All County Welfare Directors Letter.

Application

The CalFresh application (CF 285) includes a question that asks if the

**and
Redeterminati
on for
CalFresh
Benefits**

applicant is interested in applying for Medi-Cal. If the answer is yes and the applicant is found eligible to CalFresh, the applicant will be enrolled into Medi-Cal through the Express Lane program. Program material for the Express Lane program is forthcoming. If the applicant is ineligible for CalFresh benefits and is interested in applying for Medi-Cal, the CalFresh worker will mail the applicant the Request for Tax Household Information (RFTHI) supplemental form.

The Medi-Cal application date will be the date of the receipt of the RFTHI form. The information on the CF 285 will be used to determine Medi-Cal eligibility.

**Medically
Needy Medi-
Cal with SOC
and Minimum
Essential
Coverage**

Medi-Cal coverage for the medically needy with a share of cost (SOC) will not meet Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) for purposes of the individual mandate tax penalty. However, the medically needy population with a SOC may qualify for the Premium Tax Credit (PTC) and Cost Sharing Reduction (CSR) programs.

New applicants who are determined eligible with a SOC will be evaluated for PTC and CSR programs.

Until further guidance is provided from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), workers will evaluate current SOC recipients for PTC and CSR at the next annual redetermination.

**Automation
Impact**

A new **Remote Identification Process Verification Complete [Y/N]** field was added on the DRA Detail tab of the Collect Individual Demographic Detail window in CalWIN. Refer to eHIT [Bulletin #5](#) for RIDP processing in CalWIN.

**ACCESS
Impact**

No impact

**Document
Processing
Center**

No impact

**PA (CalFresh
or CalWORKs
Program
Impact**

As stated above

**Quality
Control (QC)
Impact**

Quality Control (QC) will cite the appropriate error when instructions in this material are not followed or are followed incorrectly.

**Approval for
Release**

Alt Wm, 2-28-14

EE