



Healthy Families & Medi-Cal Bridging Process

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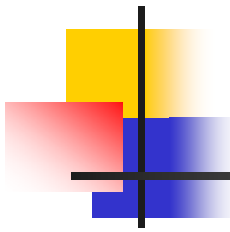


History of Bridging Programs:

- What was Bridging?
 - Extended health care coverage when a child no longer qualifies for a program during:
 - HFP Annual Eligibility Review Process (AER):
 - Income below HFP Guidelines.
 - Extended HFP coverage for 2 months.
 - No-Cost Medi-Cal (MC) Annual Re-Determination Review:
 - Income above MC Guidelines.
 - Extends MC coverage for 1 month.

History of Bridging Programs Continued...

- What Are the Goals?
 - Streamline enrollment of children into HFP and MC programs.
 - Minimize children experiencing a break in health care coverage, as they transition between programs.
- When Did the Bridging Programs Begin?
 - HFP Bridging Program – 2002.
 - MC Bridging Program – 1999.



HFP Annual Eligibility Review (AER) Process

How Does the HFP Notify Families?

- Pre-printed, customized AER packet sent to the families:
 - No more than 75 days before Anniversary Date.
- If family doesn't respond:
 - 30 days before Anniversary Date, reminder post card sent.
 - HFP makes follow-up calls.
 - 15 days before the end of Anniversary Month, another notification sent.

HFP Notification Process

Continued...

- Disenrollment letter sent and encourages family to apply. Includes a pre-printed, customized Program Review Form.
- About 1 month after a child is disenrolled, HFP sends another pre-printed, customized Re-Enrollment Form.
- What Happens If There Is Missing Information at AER?
 - A letter is sent to the families, letting them know what information or documents are needed.
 - Calls are also made.

HFP Notification Process

Continued...

- What Happens If the Child's Income is Below HFP Guidelines?
 - Child use to receive 2-Month HFP Bridge:
 - If not enrolled in No-Cost Medi-Cal.
 - Occurred even if the families did not give permission to forward the AER to the MC program.

HFP Notification Process

Continued...

- If families do not give permission to forward the AER information to the MC program:
 - HFP sends a letter to the families, asking them to re-consider Medi-Cal.
 - Families have 90 days to inform HFP that they are interested in Medi-Cal. (Permission must be in writing.)
 - If permission is received, AER information is sent to the MC program.

What Are the Recent New Changes?

- HFP no longer places children in the 2-Month Bridging Program.
 - August 2007 – Last time HFP enrolls children into the 2-Month Bridge.
- HFP 2-Month Bridge replaced with Presumptive Eligibility (PE) for No-Cost Medi-Cal.
- Child is enrolled in Medi-Cal instead of the HFP.
- This new process began on September 1, 2007.



How Can a Child Get PE?

- During HFP Annual Eligibility Review.
- Child is not enrolled in No-Cost or Share-of-Cost Medi-Cal.
- Families give permission for the HFP to forward the AER packet to the MC program.



When Does PE Coverage Begin & How Long Does It Last?

- The 1st day of the month after the HFP Anniversary Date.
- For Example:
 - HFP Anniversary Date is January 14, 2008.
 - Child disenrolled from the HFP on January 31, 2008.
 - PE begins February 1, 2008.
- Child is enrolled in PE until the MC program makes an eligibility determination.

What Happens to Children Who Are on The 2-Month Bridge?

- Children will receive their full 2-Month HFP Bridge.
- After their 2-Month Bridge, they will be enrolled in PE.
- **Important Reminder!** - Only if families give permission to forward AER information to the MC program.

10. Read these statements and sign your name below each statement if it is true.

Authorization to forward Annual Eligibility Review form to Medi-Cal:

If my child is ineligible for Healthy Families because my income is below Healthy Families guidelines, I request that this form be forwarded to the county and treated as a Medi-Cal application. I declare under penalty of perjury that the information on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

➡ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Medi-Cal needs Social Security Numbers. If you want your children to get Medi-Cal, go back to Questions 1, 4 and 6 and write the Social Security Number next to each child's name.



What Happens to Children Who Are on The 2-Month Bridge?

- With the existing AER Form, families have to sign a separate signature block if they want Medi-Cal.
- AER Form will be revised in November 2007.
 - Applicants have to explicitly indicate they are not interested in Medi-Cal. If the check box is left blank, then it will be forwarded to the MC program.



What Happens to Children Who Are on The 2-Month Bridge?

- Scenario:
 - August 7, 2007 – Child's Anniversary Date.
 - August 14, 2007 – HFP determines child no longer qualifies during AER.
 - Income below HFP Guidelines.
 - Applicant gives permission for HFP to forward AER information to Medi-Cal.
 - September 2007 & October 2007 – Child placed on HFP 2-Month Bridge.
 - November 1, 2007 – Child then enrolled in PE.

What Happens If Families Do Not Give Permission to Send AER to MC Program?

- Child will be disenrolled from the HFP.
- Child will not be enrolled in PE.
- HFP sends a letter to the family, asking that they re-consider Medi-Cal.
- Family has 90 days from the HFP eligibility determination date to send permission.
- If permission received within 90 days, child will be enrolled in PE.
- PE begins the 1st of the month when permission was received.



Medi-Cal Annual Re-Determination Process



Bridging from Medi-Cal to Healthy Families:

- County eligibility staff assigned to evaluate Annual Re-determination newals complete the following steps:
 - Utilize a Bridging checklist to identify cases with potentially eligible bridging persons.
 - Cases determined eligible for Bridging receive a LEADER generated Notice of Action alerting the beneficiary that although they now have a Share of Cost, their child may be eligible to the Healthy Families Program.



Bridging from Medi-Cal to Healthy Families Continued...

- Eligibility staff review the case to see if the beneficiary gave consent to make a Healthy Families Referral.
- If the beneficiary has given consent, the eligibility worker completes the appropriate Healthy Families Referral form and forwards the information to the Healthy Families Program for evaluation **AND....**



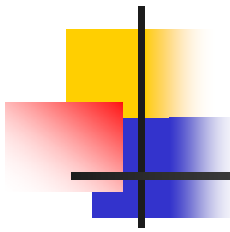
Bridging from Medi-Cal to Healthy Families Continued...

- Generates a manual Notice of Action which names the child who is eligible to be Bridged and will receive the additional month of no share of cost coverage while their application to Healthy Families is evaluated.



Bridging from Medi-Cal to Healthy Families Continued...

- If the beneficiary has not consented to a Healthy Families Referral, the Eligibility Worker will attempt to contact the beneficiary by phone or if the telephone contact was unsuccessful, a Request for Consent form will be mailed to the beneficiary.
- If either of these requests for consent is successful, a referral is forwarded to the Healthy Families Program.



HFP AER Packets Forwarded to the MC Program:

- Referrals sent from Healthy Families are centrally processed in our Medi-Cal Mail-In District.
- The Healthy Families AER form is treated as an application for Medi-Cal.
- If needed, Eligibility staff sends a request for documents.
- The case is evaluated for all Medi-Cal programs and the appropriate Notice of Action is generated and sent to the beneficiary.
- If the case is approved, it is forwarded to the district of residence for ongoing maintenance.



Helpful Tips

Top Five Ways to Help Families With Bridging/PE

- Know Timelines for Bridging and PE.
- Know When Bridging Happens, When it Shouldn't.
- Help Families Meet Consent Requirements.
- Help Families Know What to Expect in the Mail.
- What to Tell New Applicants.



Helping Families: Know the Timelines for Bridging and PE

- **Medi-Cal to Healthy Families Bridge:**
 - When child gets a Share of Cost at RV, 1-month bridge is automatic.
 - Transfer to Healthy Families for evaluation requires consent.
- **Healthy Families to Medi-Cal Presumptive Eligibility (Bridge):**
 - New Name, New Policy!
 - When Healthy Families ends at AER, PE is unlimited: 2 month time limit no longer exists (PE until county approves or denies ongoing Medi-Cal).



Helping Families: When to Bridge, When Not to Bridge

- Presumptive Eligibility from Healthy Families to Medi-Cal: when a family's income or other circumstances change so they qualify without a SOC.
- Bridging from Medi-Cal to Healthy Families: when the county determines the child has a SOC.
- Bridging Only Happens at Annual Re-determination and AER.
 - Children on Medi-Cal get to keep free Medi-Cal through CEC until their next annual re-determination if found to have a new SOC.
 - Children on Healthy Families get benefits for 12 months.

Helping Families Meet Consent Requirements

- Consent is required for MC → HF and for HF → MC.
- Coming soon, the revised joint MC/HF application uses “passive consent”: A family consents if they do not “opt out”.
- If the family applied using the old application, the MC 210, or any other application method, they needed to consent.
- The family can consent at Medi-Cal Annual Re-determination.



Helping Families Know What to Expect in the Mail (MC → HF Bridge)

- Medi-Cal Annual Re-determination Form (and reminder notices) from County.
- MC → HF Bridge:
 - Notice from County that Medi-Cal is ending and the 1-month bridge is starting and when it is ending.
 - All SOC notices tell about the HF bridge.
 - These notices will request consent if none has been given yet.
 - Notice from Healthy Families that Healthy Families is approved or denied.



Helping Families Know What to Expect in the Mail (HF → MC PE)

- Healthy Families Annual Eligibility Review (AER) form (and reminder notices).
- HF → MC Presumptive Eligibility.
 - Notice from Healthy Families that regular HF is ending and PE is starting.
 - Calls and/or requests for information from the County if more information is needed.
 - Notice from the County that ongoing Medi-Cal is approved or denied.



Helping Families: What to Tell New Applicants

- If using the joint MC/HF Application (MC 321): Explain Passive Consent.
- If using any other application: Explain Consent is Required for HF → MC.
- Explain the relationship between the two programs.
- Tell them to fill out the annual forms!



Helping Families: What to Tell New Applicants

- Tell them where to get help:
 - Come back to you if you help with annual renewal and bridging.
 - Let families know that they can give you permission to follow-up on their behalf – they must give written permission.



Helping Families: What to Tell New Applicants

- Healthy Families: 1-866-848-9166.
- Medi-Cal: Call the family's own county worker with questions.
- If the family doesn't have a worker, use the county directory at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mcs/med-calhome/CountyListing1.htm>.



Future Changes



Questions



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