



Maternal and Child Health Access

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Pregnant Citizens on Medi-Cal or Applying for Medi-Cal

A new law says that if you are a U.S. Citizen or National (someone who was born in American Samoa or the Mariana Islands), you may have to prove your U.S. Citizenship and Identity when you apply for Medi-Cal. If you are already on Medi-Cal you may have to prove it when you renew your Medi-Cal. You only have to do this one time. Many people in California want to be sure you get good health care without delays.

The new law does not apply to immigrants who are not U.S. citizens!

Any pregnant woman who may be eligible and who needs prenatal care or an abortion should start with Presumptive Eligibility (also called “PE”) Medi-Cal. This program allows you to get immediate temporary Medi-Cal while you turn in the application for regular Medi-Cal.

1. To find a PE provider in Los Angeles County, call 1-800-427-8700. You may also visit <http://lapublichealth.org/mch/cpsp/cpspproviders/providerlist.htm> on the web to find doctors and clinics that are part of a program called Comprehensive Perinatal Services (CPSP) and they will probably also be part of PE, but call and ask to be sure. For abortion services, call Planned Parenthood at 1-800-576-5544. For PE, you do not have to have identity, citizenship or income documents.
2. You apply for PE at a doctor’s office or clinic. The application is only two pages. You can get your pregnancy test for free with PE if you are not sure you’re pregnant.
3. Turn in an application for regular Medi-Cal before the end date on your PE card. The clinic or doctor’s office may be able to help with this, or you may call or visit a community organization (see numbers below). Your PE coverage will stop at the end of the next month after you get it, but if you apply for regular Medi-Cal, the clinic can renew your PE for two more months. It can be renewed again if needed.

**Important! Be sure and sign, and mail or hand in your
Medi-Cal application before your PE coverage ends!
Do this even if you do not have everything needed for the application.**

The following information does NOT apply to you if you are undocumented or not a U. S. Citizen, or on CalWORKS or SSI, or if you are a teen getting “Minor Consent” Medi-Cal for your pregnancy:

4. Most citizens will have to show proof of US Citizenship for regular Medi-Cal. You must show original documents as proof. Some examples of the documents are on the third page of this flyer. Some Medi-Cal offices are set up to have you come in and show the documents. It is not a good idea to send the originals in the mail.
5. You can have Medi-Cal for your pregnancy and delivery even if you are unable to find your citizenship or identity documents or are trying to get them from someplace else. Tell the Medi-Cal office that you want Medi-Cal just for your pregnancy (this is sometimes called “Restricted” or “pregnancy only” Medi-Cal). Tell them this as soon as you turn in everything else needed. Don’t wait to get Medi-Cal while you look for documents! Tell the Medi-Cal office where you were born. If you were born in California they may be able to match your birth record on the computer and then you won’t have to provide the citizenship documents. If you were born in another state they can ask that state for proof of your birth.

The Medi-Cal office should help to get your proof from other counties or states.

6. After proof is provided, if you are otherwise eligible, the Medi-Cal office should give you full Medi-Cal to cover most medical care, not just pregnancy, back to the time you first applied. So if you have to get medical care for something not related to your pregnancy, your Medi-Cal may cover the care once you turn in your proof. Save your receipts if you pay for care while you are on pregnancy-only Medi-Cal!

IMPORTANT! If you are already pregnant and already get Medi-Cal, tell your Eligibility Worker that you are trying to find your documents. If you are trying, they can’t change your full Medi-Cal to Restricted Medi-Cal.

You may need help from an advocacy organization. Two that are ready to help you are:

**Maternal and Child Health Access (English and Spanish):
(213) 749-4261**
**The Health Consumer Center (many languages):
(800) 896-3203**

Documents that will prove your citizenship and identity

Documents that Prove BOTH Citizenship AND Identity:

1. A United States Passport (can be expired)
2. Certificate of Naturalization
3. Certificate of Citizenship

Documents that ONLY prove Citizenship

1. A U.S. birth certificate
2. A hospital birth record
3. Statement signed by the doctor of midwife who delivered the baby
4. Admission papers to a nursing home
5. Medical record that shows you were born in the U.S. is more than 5 years old
6. School record that shows a U.S, birth place, date of admission and date of birth
7. An adoption decree
8. Military Service record that show a U.S. birth place
9. Written affidavits from two persons who know you are a citizen and who can prove their own citizenship!

Documents that Prove Identity (can be expired):

1. Drivers License or I.D. issued by a U.S. state or territory
2. School I.D. with photograph
3. Certificate of Native American blood.
4. Native American tribal record or I.D
5. Three or more documents such as employee I.D.s, high school or college diplomas, marriage licenses, divorce decrees, and property deeds/titles.
6. For children under 16: One parent's signature on the Medi-Cal application, an affidavit, school report cards, or medical records.
7. For people in Nursing Homes or Institutions: An affidavit signed by the facility's director.

There are other documents you can use to prove citizenship and identity as well.

If you have questions, call your Eligibility Worker or call:

Health Consumer Center of Los Angeles (800) 896-3203
Maternal and Child Health Access (213) 749-4261