



## **-MCHA Advocate Alert Update- December 2015**

**Note:** We know that many service providers and advocates are away for the holidays. We will send this information again in early January.

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## **CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION PROGRAM**

**Background:** Since 2003, uninsured children receiving a Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) visit could receive temporary, Full Medi-Cal through the "CHDP Gateway" if they had not already been identified as having Restricted Medi-Cal. The coverage lasts for the month of the visit and the month after, and is extended if the family submitted a Medi-Cal application for the child.

Things changed in 2015 after federal review of California's "Presumptive Eligibility" (PE) programs. Children going through the CHDP Gateway can now receive temporary Full Medi-Cal under PE only two times a year. Enrollment through the Hospital PE Program counts as one of the two annual CHDP Gateway PE enrollments

But limiting the PE Medi-Cal enrollment at the CHDP visit to two times a year does not mean that uninsured children no longer have the right to receive actual CHDP services. **Kids are still entitled to health and disability prevention services under the core CHDP program, like immunizations, health screens, school entrance, camp, and sports activity physicals, and follow up treatment.**

## **ALERT**

The two-times-a-year PE restriction has resulted in limiting CHDP visits for uninsured children. Children who are not yet enrolled in either Full Scope or Restricted Medi-Cal are being turned away from CHDP visits after the second time going through the Gateway or Hospital PE. This is apparently happening because when the Gateway computer system was changed to reduce PE to only two times a year, the payment processing for CHDP services was shut off, too. Currently the only way that children who have exceeded two PE enrollments are able to

access CHDP services is if they have been enrolled in either Full Scope or Restricted Medi-Cal. Click [here](#) to see the full alert!

## WHAT THIS MEANS?

**Infants under age one:** The main victims are infants under the age of one year who are supposed to be automatically enrolled in Medi-Cal without an application when the mother had Medi-Cal coverage for the delivery. Since 2003 there has been a "Deemed Eligible" (DE) infants pathway in the CHDP Gateway; if the Gateway finds a match between the mother's Medi-Cal or Social Security Number and the newborn's date of birth, then the baby should be immediately enrolled into on-going Medi-Cal coverage for the entire first year. But if the mother doesn't bring her number(s) at the time of the infant's first two CHDP visits, or, as often happens, the state's flawed computer systems fails to find the match to her infant, then these infants are not only not identified as DE for on-going Medi-Cal—they are also now being denied CHDP exams and immunizations for the remaining visits (click [here](#) to see schedule of periodic visits).

## WHAT TO DO:

- Please let MCHA know if you have affected clients. The state has been refusing our requests since the end of September to address this urgent matter. Bringing more cases to the state's attention could spur action.
- **What if**, after the first two PE visits in a year:
  - An infant under age one year needs an immunization, well-baby exam for early detection of problems, or follow-up treatment from an earlier CHDP visit?

If the mother had Medi-Cal for the delivery, call the county, or submit a Newborn Referral Form, to register the infant into Medi-Cal without an application. The NRF is at this [link](#) in English: And [here](#) in Spanish:

- a child can't enroll in school without the physical or receive follow-up treatment for a condition identified during an earlier CHDP visit?

Apply for the child's Medi-Cal online in Los Angeles County at <https://www.dpssbenefits.lacounty.gov> or with another county's website, or [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com) for the entire state.

- For a child of any age, you can also request a "Fair Hearing" by calling: 1-800-952-5253 (voice) or 1-800-952-8349 (TDD for the deaf/hard of hearing).
  - If there is an "Immediate Need", be sure to describe what the urgency is for the child.
  - These fair hearings are supposed to happen in 10 days. They can be done either over the telephone or in person. You do not need a lawyer or other representative.
- If you are a provider and you are unable to bill for a CHDP exam except

through the CHDP Gateway, and this restriction is affecting your patients, please contact the Telephone Service Center (TSC) POS/Internet Help Desk at 1-800-541-5555 and let them know. They are available 6 am to midnight, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Questions? Please contact MCHA Training or Outreach staff at 213-749-4261 or Lynn Kersey at [lynnk@mchaccess.org](mailto:lynnk@mchaccess.org).

## Employment Opportunities!

### MCH Access has the following Job opportunities

Please click on the job title you are interested in to view the full job description and the application process. And provide a cover letter and current resume with your application that specifically outlines your employment history experience and educational background for which you're applying.

- [Administrative Assistant - Executive](#)
- [Pregnancy Coverage Specialist](#)
- [Project Coordinator - Pregnancy Policy](#)

MCHA is an Equal Opportunity Employer; women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply.

## CONTACT US

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## SUPPORT

