



“Deemed Eligibility” and getting the baby on Medi-Cal – Jump on it!

A “Deemed Eligible” newborn is one whose mom had Medi-Cal coverage for the delivery. Deemed Eligible newborns are guaranteed their Medi-Cal coverage at least until their first birthday, when Medi-Cal must be renewed. No application is required, just notification of the newborn’s birth.

However, the Medi-Cal offices are extremely backed up right now, so even notification is difficult. There are three ways to get the Medi-Cal card for a Deemed Eligible newborn. **The mother’s Medi-Cal card may be used during the month of birth and the month following for services and billing for the newborn** (*see attached “Using Mom’s Medi-Cal card for her Newborn”*). This gives Mom time to report the birth through one of the methods below:

1. Call

The client can call an Eligibility Worker (EW) via the Customer Call Center at **any** one of the numbers listed below. The last number, the toll free number, will not let you “hold” if too many calls are on hold; it will disconnect the call. We recommend one of the other numbers for the time being.

- ❖ (626) 569-1399
- ❖ (310) 258-7400
- ❖ (818) 701-8200
- ❖ (866) 613-3777 – Toll Free Number

Mom’s or another child’s case number or Social Security Number is needed to look up the case. A case number can be found on the upper right hand corner of a Notice of Action (letter sent to the client from Medi-Cal).

Once the call is answered you will hear a list of options:

1. Press 0 to be transferred to an Eligibility Worker (EW)
 2. Press 3 for Medi-Cal
- Tell the EW the baby’s name, date of birth and gender of the baby.
 - No documents are needed for Medi-Cal only.
 - Worker should issue a “Benefits Identification Card” (BIC), and add baby to the existing family case.

2. Fax the Newborn Referral Form

The Newborn Referral Form is a California State Department of Health Care Services form (Form number MC 330) used to notify a local county Medi-Cal office that a baby has been born to a mother on Medi-Cal. This form is faxed to a central office within the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and then it is routed to the District where the client’s case is housed (*see attached Spanish and English forms with LA County’s fax number at top*). A Beneficiary Identification Card (BIC) is supposed to be issued within 10 calendar days but it is taking about six weeks for the BIC card to arrive.

“Advocacy Tip” This form can be filled out before the due date and be kept on file with the agency that assisted mom with Medi-Cal enrollment or who provides case management for mom; include mom’s information and signature – *see attached **Newborn Referral Instructions*** that provide step-by-step information on each of the required fields. When the baby is born mom can call back agency to provide the remaining required information: Baby’s name, date of birth, and gender and the agency assisting her can fax it over to the Department of Public Social Services.

3. The Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Gateway to Medi-Cal

The Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program is a Federal and State preventive health care program that provides free health check-ups for many low-income infants, children, teens, and young adults. As part of the eligibility process CHDP checks to see if the infant or child has an open Medi-Cal case, those that do not are provided a Gateway to Medi-Cal.

The Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Gateway is an online application process for Medi-Cal that takes place during a regularly scheduled CHDP visit. Eligible children can receive Temporary Full Scope Medi-Cal for that month and the following month, during which the family can apply for Medi-Cal through the regular application process. This process is different for “Deemed Eligible” infants. “Deemed Eligible” infants (infants whose mother’s were on Medi-Cal at the time of birth) who go through the Gateway will automatically receive their Medi-Cal until their first birthday without having to submit an application or contact the county.

It’s important that mom take her Medi-Cal card to the visit because the CHDP pre-enrollment application for patients under one year of age asks for Mother’s date of birth and her Medi-Cal number or Social Security Number. This information is needed to ensure that the newborn receives the full year of Medi-Cal coverage. If mom’s information is omitted or incorrect, the newborn may only receive the temporary Medi-Cal coverage for that month and the following month.

If you have issues notifying Medi-Cal of the birth of the newborn or would like more information about any of the methods listed above, you can call:

**Maternal and Child Health Access at 1-213-749-4261 or
call the Health Consumer Center of Los Angeles at 1-800-896-3202.**