



New Medi-Cal & MCAP 12-Month Eligibility Extension After the End of Pregnancy

September 17, 2020

Maternal and Child Health Access
Community Meeting

What is this new eligibility?

- ✓ Launched August 1 for both **Medi-Cal & the Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP)**
- ✓ Extends eligibility after the end of a pregnancy from the traditional “60-day postpartum period” to **12 consecutive months**
- ✓ Doesn't matter how the pregnancy ends
 - Not just “postpartum”.

“PPCE”

The state calls the program “Provisional Postpartum Care Eligibility”

- Why “provisional”? For now, PPCE depends on the Legislature funding it each year.
- Created and funded by the Budget Act of 2019, plus SB 104, Sec, 6.
- No federal match

Implementation rules:
All County Letter 20-14.

MCHA has a “plain English” summary, which also includes links to the documents we’ll discuss.

Scope of benefits

Not limited to
mental health
services

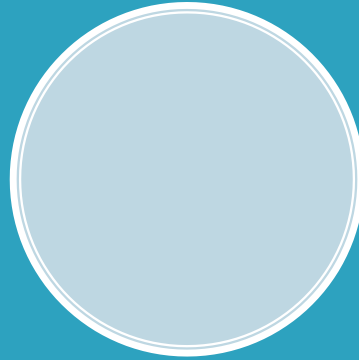
Same as the
scope the
individual had
during the
pregnancy:

- “Full-Scope” for those with Full Scope Medi-Cal for the pregnancy or MCAP
- “Pregnancy-Related” Medi-Cal for others. --**Reminders:** Because of Obamacare, must cover all medically necessary services. Includes dental.

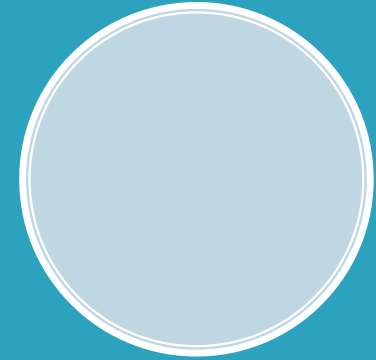
Who qualifies?



Anyone with Medi-Cal or MCAP during pregnancy or “postpartum period”; and



who is diagnosed with a “maternal mental health condition”; and



who completes the enrollment process for this new eligibility category.



“Maternal mental health condition”

- ▶ Any mental health diagnosis
- ▶ Can be mild to moderate
 - Usually diagnosed by the pregnancy provider or other primary care provider
- ▶ Or can be severe
 - Usually diagnosed by a mental health specialist

Timeframe for the Diagnosis

- During the pregnancy
 - or before if diagnosis continues during
- Or during the postpartum period
- Or during the “90-day cure” period
 - Within 90 days of discontinuance
- Maybe during “pandemic discontinuance moratorium”? Guidance pending.

How to get the eligibility extension?

Beneficiary and provider complete the “PPCE Medical Report”– Form MC 61.

Completed form submitted to the county or Maximus.

Best to do this as soon as possible once there’s a mental health diagnosis.

- A “continuing aid code” will have to be assigned manually by the county or Maximus.

How will beneficiaries know about the new program?

In-reach and Outreach

- Community groups
- Providers

MCAP and Pregnancy-Related

- All will be sent an info flyer by the state or county when they enroll and again close to the expected due date

Full Scope

- Will be sent the info flyer by the county only if they have reported a pregnancy

How will providers know?

- ▶ A Medi-Cal “flash” bulletin has gone out.
- ▶ The Medi-Cal Provider Manual will be updated.
- ▶ DHCS has a PPCE website.
- ▶ Provider associations (ACOG, CMA, CPCA, and others) are putting the word out.

Compare pandemic moratorium on discontinuances

- ▶ Since March 2020, no one is supposed to be discontinued from Medi-Cal or MCAP
 - unless deceased, moved out of CA, or requested
- ▶ This will last at least until the end of the nationally declared public health emergency.
 - There may be a transition period after.
- ▶ BUT counties and Maximus may switch over to PPCE if applicable.

Tips

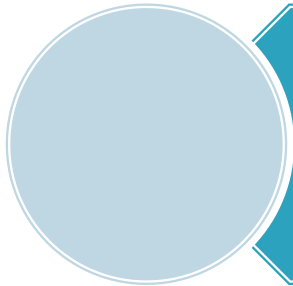
- ✓ Assess, screen and diagnose as soon as possible
- ✓ Complete and submit the MC 61 “PPCE Medical Report” form

Follow up on the manual transition process:

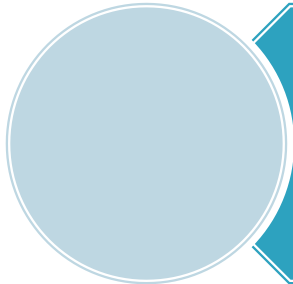
- ✓ Make sure the individual continues in an “**active**” Medi-Cal or MCAP aid code
- ✓ If no longer active, contact the county (for Medi-Cal) or Maximus (for MCAP)

--PPCE or Discontinuance Moratorium

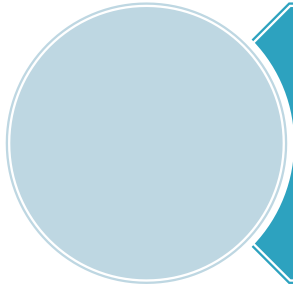
Including others in the 12-month extension



Should not be limited to pregnant individuals with a mental health condition.



Some states have asked for federal “waivers” to extend. Pending.



Federal bills to apply the extension in all states.

Links

- ▶ PPCE landing page at State DHCS website:

https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/ppce/PPCE_Landing.aspx

- ▶ MC 61 PPCE Medical Report: https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/PPCE/MC_61-PPCE_Medical_Report_Form.pdf

- ▶ PPCE Info Flyer

English: https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/PPCE/PCE_Information_Flyer.pdf

Spanish: https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/PPCE/PCE_Information_Flyer_SPA.pdf

Other threshold languages coming.

- ▶ Provider Bulletin: https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/newsroom/newsroom_30223_01.aspx

- ▶ ACL No. 20-14: https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/PPCE/PCE_Information_Flyer_SPA.pdf

Some related topics to consider

- ▶ The urgency of postpartum mental health services
- ▶ Coordinating through Medi-Cal's Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program

Thank you!



 *Multiforum Advocacy Solutions*

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