



## Maternal and Child Health Access

**MCHA Zoom Monthly Meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, 10-15-2020**

### *Where?*

**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

This is a virtual meeting  
Do Not come to our location!

After you register (at RSVP below) for this event, look for the Zoom link in your registration confirmation email

questions?  
213 749 4261  
[info@mchaccess.org](mailto:info@mchaccess.org)

### *Speaker/Topic*

October is Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness Month

David Holtzman, volunteer for League of Women Voters, Los Angeles  
"California State Ballot Measures"

COVID-19 and other coverage updates

Breast Cancer and other screenings - how are we faring?

New options for enrolling in coverage - DV

CLICK HERE TO  
**RSVP**

**From our meeting Sept. 17, 2020 (see materials on [MCHA website](#)):**

### **Guest Speaker:**

**New Medi-Cal and MCAP 12-Month Eligibility Extension Post-Pregnancy  
- Lucy Quacinella, Multiforum Advocacy Solutions**

See slides and materials from September meeting.

This new eligibility program started August 1, 2020 for both Medi-Cal and the Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP). It extends coverage after the end of pregnancy from the 60+ day postpartum period to 12 consecutive months after the end of a pregnancy, regardless of whether the pregnancy ends in birth, miscarriage or abortion, for someone diagnosed with a "maternal mental health condition". MCHA's "[plain English](#)" explanation of the program is posted on our website, as is a colorful [flyer](#) in English and Spanish with links to the state's

flyer in all 13 languages required for Medi-Cal translation, called "threshold languages". Ms. Quacinella's presentation covered what is considered a maternal mental health condition, the timeframe for the diagnosis, how to get the eligibility extension and how beneficiaries and providers will know about this new program. You can help! She also included information on the movements to broaden the efforts to make Medicaid eligibility last for a full year postpartum, without the need for a mental health condition. **Thanks for the good questions and clarifications sought during the presentation; we are working on getting the answers and will send them out in a future mailing.**

Because of the pandemic moratorium on discontinuances, or "no negative action" (see below), those on minor consent, pregnancy-related Medi-Cal, those who don't file a renewal, etc. should all continue on Medi-Cal. Therefore, few have had the need for this extension. But please familiarize yourself with the program and let pregnant people and their providers know about it.

### **No Negative Action**

The ONLY ways that Medi-Cal should be cut off is if a beneficiary requests, or dies, or moves out of state! Please note that thousands are still inadvertently or through systems issues being cut off, but the state moves to put them back on Medi-Cal. Please contact DPSS or have your client contact DPSS's Customer Service Line if this happens.

### **"COVID Uninsured" takes over for "COVID-PE"**

Donald Nollar explained the "new" coverage group.

- As of March 18, 2020, As of March 18, 2020, House Resolution (H.R.) 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Section 6004, authorized state Medicaid programs to provide access to coverage for medically necessary coronavirus (COVID-19) diagnostic testing, testing-related services, and treatment at no cost to the individual.
- As of August 28, DHCS implemented "COVID-19 Uninsured" to cover diagnostic testing, testing-related services and treatment, INCLUDING HOSPITALIZATION and all medically-necessary care, at no cost for up to 12 months or the end of the public health emergency, whichever comes first.

- For this program, neither immigration nor income count. It should work with existing insurance if someone has a COVID-related co-pay.
- Note that although it started on August 28 and is forward-looking, like PE, there is retroactive coverage back to April 8. That coverage, unfortunately, has to be applied for separately.
- There is no public charge issue for any COVID-related services.
- The following question and answer about status on the FAQs concerns how the Medi-Cal program accounts for funds, and the information is not for use for immigration or other purposes.
  - "13. Is an individual's citizenship/immigration status verified when they apply for the new COVID-19 Uninsured Group?"

Yes, an individual's citizenship/immigration status will be electronically verified. But status is not a condition of eligibility.

See the state's page [here](#) but also [MCHA's 9-28-20 flyer](#) explaining the three ways COVID coverage works regardless of immigration status.

MCHA has a client-friendly flyer we are finishing up.

## "Waive", or Get Rid Of, Medi-Cal Premiums During the Pandemic

Few Medi-Cal enrollees know that during the public health emergency, premiums paid monthly can be waived for MCAP, Optional Targeted Low-Income Children's Program and the Medi-Cal Access Infant Program (infants born to a person covered by MCAP for the pregnancy), County Children's Health Initiatives and the 250% Working Disabled Program. Here is a link to the notice MCAP enrollees should be getting:

[Monthly Contribution Waiver for Medi-Cal Access Program](#). As yet there is no one site for information to waive premiums. Thanks to Disability Rights CA for the information:

If you have paid your premiums since April 1, 2020 and experienced hardships due to COVID-19 during that time, you can ask the representative to credit your previous months' premium payments toward future months after your COVID-19 related hardship has passed.

- Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP): You can call MCAP at 1-800-433-2611 Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. or on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Optional Targeted Low-Income Children's Program (OTLICP) and Medi-Cal Access Infant Program (MCAIP): You can call OTLICP or MCAIP at 1-800-880-5305 Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. or on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- County Children's Health Initiative Program (CCHIP): You can call CCHIP at 1-833-912-2447 Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. or on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- 250 Percent Working Disabled Program (250% WDP): You can call 250% WDP at 1-916-445-9891.

NOTE: Monthly premiums for the Medi-Cal programs listed above may be waived from April 1, 2020 through the end of your financial hardship or the end of the public health emergency, whichever comes first.

### Federal Legislation Mentioned -

[MOMMAS Act HR 1897 extends Medi-Cal for one year](#)

[MomsNoms - Sen. Harris's NINE maternal health bills in one!](#)

## New Since Meeting

### Domestic Abuse or Spousal Abandonment Qualifying Life Event - Covered CA

As of October 5, 2020, "Victim of domestic abuse or spousal abandonment" is available as a distinct Qualifying Life Event (QLE) selection on the special enrollment period (SEP) dropdown menu in the CalHEERS application.

MCHA wanted to let you all know that, while we've been working with Cov CA to get this QLE added for DV for quite some time-- and are thrilled it's finally there!-- we are still waiting to hear on two related things:

1) Have pop-up instructions been included in the application, as MCHA recommended, to inform applicants that the partner's income does not count for applicants with the DV survivor QLE; and

2) Will the usual 60-day timeframe within which the QLE must have occurred be waived for DV survivors, since they quite often need time to make and act on a safety plan and/or stabilize after trauma?

Finally, the DV survivor should be informed, at both the eligibility results screen as well as in the Cov CA approval letter that, if they are married, they will need to file the IRS 8962 form at tax time to qualify for relief.

We also urged/used the term "survivors" rather than "victims".

You may recall that MCHA created a flyer, available on our website [here](#).

The need for special enrollment for domestic violence survivors is not an issue at the moment, as Open Enrollment is in place for all applicants for Covered CA.

According to Covered CA, "Emerging data and reporting suggest that domestic violence has surged during the COVID-19 pandemic. Calls to The National Domestic Violence Hotline increased relative to last year and calls from Californians rose about 17% from March to May of 2020. In addition, reports of hospital-documented injuries in the nation have pointed to the particular vulnerability of women and children during this time. In response, policymakers have introduced initiatives and funding to create awareness of this issue and to provide support and resources."

Please don't hesitate to let Liz Ramirez, Lynn Kersey or Lucy Quacinella know if you have any questions - we'll keep you posted on these developments.

## Specialty Care and Other Delays

Please see the following article on [delays in the county DHS health system](#). Whether it is a biopsy, radiology, urology, mental health - please involve the health plans, DMHC and DHCS if the client is in a health plan and Los Angeles County's chains of command or MyHealth LA's if not. Standards of care exist and grievance processes exist. We are seeing delays since the pandemic for all kinds of services that are often dismissed as "the patient preference or fear of coming in" when in fact, the appointments themselves are months away. Please intervene on behalf of patients who may be timid or intimidated.

## Resources

### Have you checked these COVID-19 resources?

See the state's [Your Actions Save Lives online toolkit](#) in eight languages, covering Social Graphics, Social Animations, Resources from Partners, Handouts and Contact Tracing Banners.

Good resources are available on The California Endowment's [website](#) as well.

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### Medi-Cal Managed Care Selection Now Online:

[Click here](#)

You will need the correct National Provider Identifier (NPI) number from the LA Care or Health Net sites. Fee for Service Denti-Cal or a managed dental plan can be chosen as well.

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**Pandemic EBT returns! Two Stakeholder Session Dates THIS WEEK**

From State DSS: California has been approved to extend P-EBT benefits for the months of August and September for children who previously received P-EBT benefits. P-EBT benefits were originally authorized under the Families First Relief Act. California's first round of issuances provided P-EBT benefits for the months of March, April, May and June 2020. This effort has wrapped up and all benefits/cards have been issued as of September 30, 2020. Over 3.7 million children were issued benefits totaling nearly \$1.4 billion. Under the P-EBT extension, children who previously received P-EBT benefits (except those who graduated/completed instruction) will be issued new benefits/cards beginning mid-October through December 2020.

Two Stakeholder Information Sessions on the P-EBT extension will be held this week. You are invited to attend one of two sessions. Please do not double register. Each session will cover the same information. We are offering two sessions to ensure all interested individuals can attend without hitting the registration threshold.

**P-EBT Stakeholder Session #1**

Thursday, October 15 from 1:30 to 2:30pm

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5124489855667901711>

**P-EBT Stakeholder Session #2**

Friday, October 16 from 11:00 to 12:00pm

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5871441980485912335>

During these stakeholder information sessions, we'll provide more info regarding the P-EBT extension including eligibility and timeline for issuance.

**P-EBT for the 2020-21 School Year**

You may also know that HR 8337, the Continuing Appropriations Act, provided states the option to provide eligible children P-EBT benefits throughout the 2020-21 school year, including both school-aged children eligible for free or reduced-price meals at school and young children eligible for meals at childcare who because of COVID-19 may not have regular access to those meals.

The CDSS, in partnership with CDE, is working on developing a plan. This plan must be approved by USDA. The timeline for implementation and method for determining eligibility has not yet been decided and more information will be shared as we have it.

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**The American Lung Association releases report on the health and climate benefits of electric transportation!**

This is a timely report given Gov. Newsom's vehicle plan in the next 15 years! Click [here](#).

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**Maternal and Child Health Access**

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