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June 15, 2015-- CalHEERS Web portal messaging for pregnant applicants under today's rules. These points will soon be on the state's Covered California website.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PREGNANT APPLICANTS

You may be eligible for both Medi-Cal and Covered California during your pregnancy and immediate postpartum. If so, the computer will put you in Covered California coverage and also send your application to Medi-Cal in your county. Here are some key points to consider before paying your Covered California premium, which starts your enrollment there:

- You do not have to enroll in both programs. It's your choice.
- You can start seeing a doctor, nurse midwife or other provider with Medi-Cal Presumptive Eligibility (PE) before Medi-Cal starts. You can search for the nearest PE provider at this link <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/PE.aspx>.
- You may not be able to use free Medi-Cal maternity benefits if your Covered California provider is not a Medi-Cal provider.
- You will have to pay your part of the Covered California premiums even if you are in Medi-Cal.
- Covered California also charges co-payments for hospital labor and delivery services. Medi-Cal does not.
- There is no tax penalty if you are in Medi-Cal for pregnancy-related care.
- After your pregnancy ends, you can enroll in Covered California, if you are still eligible then.

If your income is over the Medi-Cal limit, you may be eligible for the Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP) (used to be called AIM-- Access for Infants and Mothers) during your pregnancy and immediate postpartum. If so, the CalHEERS Portal will put you in Covered California and also send your application to MCAP. MCAP will then contact you. If you'd like to call MCAP first to enroll, the toll free number is (800) 433-2611. You can only be in one of these programs at the same time, not both. Key points to consider before paying your Covered California premium, which starts your enrollment there, are:

- You can choose to enroll either in MCAP or Covered California, but not both.
- Your MCAP premiums will be less expensive than Covered California, and MCAP has no co-payments or deductibles.
- MCAP covers your baby under Medi-Cal delivery system for the first year of life, and the second year if your income stays under a certain level
- There is no tax penalty if you are in MCAP.
- After your pregnancy ends, you can enroll in Covered California if you are still eligible then.

For even more info, watch for a link for pregnant women on the Covered California main website page, coming soon, or contact Maternal and Child Health Access.