



Maternal and Child Health Access

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November 2005 Update Women and Infants Enrollment Project

Hello, everyone. This Update's highlights include:

- Over **83,000** “deemed eligible” infants have been enrolled into Medi-Cal from the date of birth to the first birthday through the improved CHDP Gateway since June 1, 2004.
- Two new **California Children’s Services** (CCS) “Numbered Letters” on Medi-Cal and Healthy Families Newborn Enrollments and CCS coverage
- SB 377 (Ortiz-D), sponsored by MCH Access, became law on October 7, 2005, implementing **new non-emergency dental benefits** for all pregnant women in Medi-Cal
- New MCH Access **Fact Sheets** on 5 important enrollment issues

**Over 83,000 “deemed eligible” infants
have been enrolled in Medi-Cal through the CHDP Gateway
since June 1, 2004.
Thousands more enroll with the Newborn Referral Form.**

As of October 31, 2005, over 83,000 “deemed eligible” infants have been identified through the CHDP Gateway and enrolled into Medi-Cal for the entire first year of life, retroactive to the date of birth. The process for enrolling “deemed eligible” infants through the Gateway started June 1, 2004 after a lawsuit challenging the state’s failure to identify the infants.

In addition, improvements to the Newborn Referral Form and process result in thousands more “deemed eligible” infants each month getting their Medi-Cal continuously for the first year of life without an application or documentation.

For more details, please see MCH Access Fact Sheet # 1 (attached).

**New CCS Numbered Letter (NL) 26-0905:
Removing Health Access Barriers
for “Deemed Eligible” Infants in CCS**

CCS NL 26-0905 explains what the CCS program is doing to make sure that “deemed eligible” infants can access CCS as well as other Medi-Cal services when the infant is enrolled by the CCS program first.

Sometimes a county CCS program enrolls an infant in CCS and assigns the infant a Client Identification Number (CIN) in the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) *before* the birth is reported to the Medi-Cal program itself.

But when the infant is later reported to Medi-Cal, the mother’s Medi-Cal caseworker may have no way of knowing that the infant was assigned a CIN by the CCS program; when this occurs, the mother’s Medi-Cal caseworker assigns the infant a second CIN. **CCS claims for services provided to the infant may be denied if the infant has two CINs.**

To prevent duplicate CINs from being issued for CCS infants, NL 26-0905 instructs county CCS programs to:

- (1) Inform the county’s Medi-Cal program whenever the CCS program issues a CIN for a “deemed eligible” infant; and
- (2) Ask that the CIN issued for the infant by the CCS program be linked to the mother’s Medi-Cal case.

The CCS program must report the infant to the Medi-Cal program either by:

- (a) calling the mother’s Medi-Cal case worker; or
- (b) faxing a completed Newborn Referral Form (MC 330), including the infant’s CIN, to the number listed for the county on the form.

NOTE: Some of the listed fax numbers on the state’s Newborn Referral Form are out of date. If you encounter an invalid fax number, please contact Sherilyn Walden at State DHS at (916) 552-9502 and also let MCHA know.

CCS NL 26-0905 is at

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/onlinearchive/pdf/ccs/numberedletters/2005/ccsnl260905.pdf>.

**New CCS Numbered Letter (NL) 24-0905:
“Former AIM” Infants in Healthy Families Eligible & CCS**

CCS NL 24-0905 explains that, as of July 1, 2004, babies born to women covered by the Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) program are being enrolled

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is made possible through the generous support of
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation.*

in Healthy Families instead of AIM, retroactive to the date of birth, as long as the family pays intervening Healthy Families premiums. (For details about the AIM-to-Healthy Families transition, please see the July 2004 Update or contact MCHA).

This NL also confirms that the “former AIM” infants are eligible for CCS services on the same basis as any other child in Healthy Families.

CCS NL 24-0905 is at

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/onlinearchive/pdf/ccs/numberedletters/2005/ccsnl240905.pdf>.

VICTORY! Dental Benefits for Pregnant Women in “Limited Scope” Medi-Cal

SB 377 (Ortiz-D) requires the State Department of Health Services to immediately provide ten non-emergency dental benefits for pregnant women in all of Medi-Cal’s “limited scope” pregnancy programs. (Emergency Denti-Cal benefits are already available to the women as well as to men, children and women who are not pregnant.)

Recent medical research shows that basic dental care during pregnancy can help to avoid pre-term births and low birth weights.

SB 377 was sponsored by MCH Access and signed by the Governor on October 7, 2005; it took effect immediately.

We expect a Denti-Cal Provider Bulletin to be issued soon, which will include the details about how providers and consumers can access these new benefits. MCH Access will distribute the Provider Bulletin to this list-serve and others as soon as it becomes available.

Five New MCH Access Fact Sheets

Attached please find:

- Fact Sheet # 1: CHDP Gateway Data and Summary Chart
- Fact Sheet # 2: Upgrading the CHDP Gateway
- Fact Sheet # 3: “Deemed Eligible” Infants and the CHDP Gateway
- Fact Sheet # 4: SB 24 Newborn Hospital Gateway
- Fact Sheet # 5: SB 24 Prenatal Gateway