

## Medicaid 12-Month Continuous Eligibility

### Frequently Asked Questions

May 2010

**Continuous Eligibility Period (CEP):** All children under the age of 19 who are eligible for Denali KidCare or other Medicaid eligibility categories (except Newborn Medicaid, Transitional Medicaid, 4-Month Post Medicaid Eligibility, and Retroactive Medicaid) remain eligible for a continuous 12-month period regardless of changes in income, resources, family status, or household composition.

When a review period is assigned to a person age 19 or older, it can be shortened or ended as there is no continuous eligibility for an adult.

#### **CEP fine points**

- Continuous eligibility for Medicaid only applies to individuals under age 19.
- Newborns covered under the “BA” subtype receive 13 months of eligibility (through the month the child turns 1).
- If the parents report a change that makes them ineligible, the parent’s eligibility ends and the children continue to receive Medicaid through the end of their 12-month continuous eligibility period (CEP).

#### **EIS Reminders:**

- When clients become ineligible for Medicaid before reaching the end of their previously authorized CEP or review period, their eligibility must be correctly ended in EIS. This also needs to occur if a client is moving to another case or if the Medicaid subtype is changing. Change the “thru” date on the MIBW to the last paid month.
- Code the client “OU” on the SEPA in an unpaid month if they remain in the household but are no longer receiving Medicaid benefits. When ending a person’s Medicaid eligibility, avoid coding Medicaid clients “OU” on the SEPA in a month that Medicaid benefits have already been paid.

#### **FAQ’s**

##### **Transitional Medicaid and CEP**

- Q.** A family becomes ineligible for Family Medicaid because of an increase in earnings. As an Eligibility Technician, you look at eligibility for Transitional Medicaid. You approve

Transitional Medicaid for the family. Are the children entitled to a CEP based on their eligibility for Transitional Medicaid?

- A. No. Continuous eligibility provisions do not apply to Transitional Medicaid. Instead, the entire family is eligible for 12 months of Transitional Medicaid. However, the original CEP may still apply for a child if the parent reports a change that ends Transitional Medicaid for a family member, such as when a child moves out of the home. In this situation, the child who moved out of the home may still be entitled to the remainder of the CEP approved before Transitional Medicaid began.

### **Retroactive Medicaid and CEP**

- Q. A dad applies for Denali KidCare for his two children in 4/10. During the interview, the dad mentions an unpaid medical bill in 3/10. The household is found eligible for retroactive Medicaid in 3/10. When should the 12-month CEP begin for the children?
- A. In 4/10. Retroactive Medicaid months are not included in the 12-month CEP.

### **Adding Household Members and CEP**

- Q. A mother and child have been receiving Family Medicaid and are currently authorized through 7/10. The mother had a baby 3/5/10. Can I certify the baby through 7/10 to match the other family members?
- A. No. The baby gets Newborn coverage through 3/11. EIS programming implements special processing to accomplish this. In EIS, the baby's first eligibility segment is for six months and is set up by the caseworker through 8/10; the second segment is set up for seven months automatically by a system batch job. Households that include a newborn Medicaid recipient may have members with different CEP end dates.

*Note: The baby's Medicaid subtype should continue to be coded as "BA" through 3/11, the end of the Newborn coverage period. Once that period ends and the child is determined eligible, a new CEP using the "AF" subtype should be set up beginning 4/11.*

- Q. A mother and child have been receiving Family Medicaid and are currently authorized through 7/10. The mother reports that another one of her children, age 12, moved into her household on 4/2/10. Should I certify the new household member through 7/10 to match the certification period of the other family members?

- A. No. You should give the new household member Medicaid coverage through 3/11. If the family turns in a Medicaid review in 7/10 and they are found eligible for Medicaid, you will authorize a new 12 month Medicaid review period for all family members (8/10 – 7/11). This will align the certification periods and give new 12 month continuous eligibility period for the children.

### **Recertification for Food Stamps and CEP**

- Q. A family is receiving Food Stamps and Medicaid. A Food Stamp recertification is due in 3/10 but the Medicaid is authorized through 9/10. When the family submits the Food Stamp recertification, do I leave the Medicaid authorized through 9/10?
- A. Start a new CEP for the children and a new review period for the parents. When a client submits a recertification for another program and the household is still eligible for Medicaid, the children are given a new 12-month CEP and the family is authorized for another 12 months.

*Note: Because many Food Stamp households have a 6-month certification period and Medicaid has a 12-month review period, there are times when a Food Stamp recertification will be submitted in the middle of a Medicaid review period. If we find the household ineligible for both programs under these circumstances, the children will be eligible for the rest of their previously certified CEP. **See EIS reminder at the beginning of this document.***

- Q. A family submits a Food Stamp recertification and Medicaid review due in 3/10. It is past adverse action, so the ET authorizes the Medicaid case for 4/10. Two weeks later the ET completes the Food Stamp recertification and Medicaid review and finds the family eligible for both programs. When does the CEP start for the children?
- A. 4/1/10. The CEP starts the first of the month after the end of the last CEP, even if we had to give additional months of Medicaid because of adverse action notice requirements. When the review is completed, we give the family a shorter “thru” month on the MIBW since 4/10 Medicaid was already paid. The family is authorized through 3/11.
- Q. A family submits a Food Stamp recertification and Medicaid review due in 3/10. It is past adverse action, so the ET authorizes the Medicaid case into 4/10. Two weeks later the ET completes the Food Stamp recertification and Medicaid review and finds the family ineligible for both programs. Are the children eligible for a 12-month CEP?

- A. No. Giving the family an extra month of Medicaid because we do not have adverse action does not qualify the children for a new CEP.

**Case closure and CEP**

Q. A family submits a written request to close their Medicaid case. Can I close the children's Medicaid even though they are in the middle of their CEP?

A. Yes. A written request from the recipient requesting case closure is an allowable reason to close a Medicaid case. **See EIS reminder at the beginning of this document.**

Q. You receive an email from another ET asking that you code a child out of your case so that they can add the child onto another case. This is in the middle of the CEP for the child on your case. Do you code this child out?

A. Yes. Code the child out of your case per their request. It is up to the ET that requested the change to make sure the child receives a new 12-month CEP or receives the remainder of their old CEP, depending on the circumstances. **See EIS reminder at the beginning of this document.**

**Example 1 - Application:**

If a child is being removed from one Medicaid case to be added to another Medicaid case based off a **new application for benefits** (such as a child moving from mom's home to dad's home and dad is now applying for Medicaid benefits), a new 12-month CEP is given to the child when dad's case is approved. If dad's case is not approved, the child must be given the rest of the CEP that was previously authorized when the child was on mom's case. (If the child was certified through 8/10 on mom's case, the child must continue to receive Medicaid through 8/10).

**Example 2 – Report of Change:**

If a child is being removed from one Medicaid case to be added to another Medicaid case based off a **report of change** (such as a child moving from mom's home to dad's home and dad already has an open case), the child must be given Medicaid for the rest of the CEP that was previously authorized when the child was on mom's case. (If the child was certified through 8/10 on mom's case, you should certify the child through

8/10 on dad's open case. When the review is turned in during 8/10, if eligible, all family members would be certified 9/10 – 8/11).

\*\*\*If there is not enough time for EIS to mail the Medicaid review notice to the new household (it is mailed 45 days before the case is scheduled to close), the eligibility technician must mail out a review due notice (M801).