




Eligibility Operations Memo 20-18
November 15, 2020

TO: MassHealth Eligibility Operations Staff

FROM: Heather Rossi, Deputy Policy Director for Eligibility 

RE: Hospital-Determined Presumptive Eligibility for Children's Health Insurance Program Eligible Individuals

Introduction

The purpose of this memo is to announce MassHealth's expansion of Hospital-Determined Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) on a permanent basis to additional Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) populations, including disabled CommonHealth children up to 300% of the federal poverty level and non-disabled Family Assistance children up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level described in MassHealth regulations. This memo outlines the eligibility guidelines for this population to be determined for MassHealth benefits via HPE.

Children's Health Insurance Program

The Children's Health Insurance Program was established under Title XXI of the Social Security Act, which authorized states to provide health care coverage to children whose family incomes exceeded the eligibility standards for Medicaid. MassHealth is the administrator of CHIP for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

CHIP coverage eligibility is based on age, family income, immigration status, and disability status. In addition to these factors, to qualify for CHIP coverage a child must be uninsured at the time of the MassHealth application submission.

Hospital-Determined Presumptive Eligibility

Effective immediately, individuals may apply for HPE if they are

- a disabled child with household income up to 300% of the federal poverty level as described in 130 CMR 505.004(F) MassHealth CommonHealth disabled 18-year-olds;
- a disabled child with household income up to 300% of the federal poverty level as described in 130 CMR 505.004(G) MassHealth CommonHealth disabled children younger than 18 years old;
- or a child up to 18 years old described in 130 CMR 505.005(B) *MassHealth Family Assistance Eligibility Requirements for Children with Modified Adjusted Gross Income of the MassHealth MAGI Household Greater than 150% and Less than or Equal to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level.*

MassHealth benefits via HPE for this population will be determined by HPE trained certified application counselors (CACs) at qualified hospitals eligible to make HPE determinations. CACs will determine individual's eligibility for HPE using the *MassHealth Application for Hospital-Determined Presumptive Eligibility* (HPE application).

The temporary coverage period for this population eligible for MassHealth benefits via HPE will follow the existing timeframes for HPE determinations outlined in Eligibility Operations Memo 20-13.

Individuals will need to complete a full MassHealth application to maintain their coverage once their HPE coverage expires.

Questions

If you have any questions about this memo, please have your MEC designee contact the Policy Hotline.