



Eligibility Operations Memo 22-07
April 2022

TO: MassHealth Eligibility Operations Staff

FROM: Heather Rossi, Director of Eligibility Policy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Rossi".

RE: **Extension of Postpartum Coverage for Eligible Individuals**

Introduction

Effective April 1, 2022, MassHealth extended its postpartum coverage period to provide 12 months of coverage to individuals with income up to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL), regardless of immigration status. This extension of coverage will significantly improve access to health care services and provide continuity of care in the period after childbirth.

Background

Currently, MassHealth provides postpartum coverage for 60 days plus an additional period extending to the end of the month in which the 60-day period ends.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 gives states the option to extend Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) postpartum coverage from 60 days to 12-months post-pregnancy. As of April 1, 2022, MassHealth will use this option to extend coverage of the postpartum period to 12-months with an extension to the end of the month in which the 12-month period ends for eligible individuals.

Eligibility Criteria

MassHealth will provide postpartum coverage to individuals, regardless of immigration status, with income up to 200% of the FPL. To be eligible for postpartum coverage, an individual must declare they are pregnant during their pregnancy.

Individuals enrolled in CHIP with attested Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) between 200-300% of the FPL who declare they are pregnant during their pregnancy will retain a Family Assistance benefit and receive 12 months of postpartum coverage following the end of the pregnancy.

After the 12-month postpartum period, individuals' eligibility will be automatically re-determined, and notification of new eligibility status will be sent to the household.

Questions

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