

**Bulletin Number:** MSA 16-11

**Distribution:** All Providers, Bridges Eligibility Manual Holders

**Issued:** May 4, 2016

**Subject:** Flint Water Group Medical Assistance

**Effective:** As Indicated

**Programs Affected:** Medicaid

**Note:** On March 3, 2016, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) received waiver approval to provide health care coverage to children up to age 21, pregnant women, and children born to pregnant women served by the Flint water system. Individuals may apply for coverage beginning May 9, 2016.

Through an approved Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver and related State Plan Amendments, MDHHS will offer a new Medicaid eligibility category referred to as the Flint Water Group (FWG). Eligibility for the FWG will be determined using the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodology. FWG eligibility is limited to pregnant women and children up to age 21 with household income up to and including 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL) who were served by the Flint water system on or between April 1, 2014, and the date the water is deemed safe by the appropriate authorities. MDHHS will provide more information on the end date for the time period as it becomes available. Eligibility is also available to children born to pregnant women served by the Flint water system during the specified time period, as long as the other eligibility requirements are met.

An individual was served by the Flint water system if he or she consumed water drawn from the Flint water system during the specified time period and:

1. Currently resides or resided in a dwelling connected to the Flint water system,
2. Is employed or had employment at a location served by the Flint water system, or
3. Is receiving or received child care or education at a location served by the Flint water system.

Pregnant women in the FWG will remain eligible throughout their pregnancy and will receive two months of post-partum coverage. Once eligibility has been established for a child, including those children born to eligible pregnant women, the child will remain eligible until age 21 as long as other eligibility requirements are met.

All FWG beneficiaries will be subject to an annual renewal process in order to maintain their eligibility. Three months of retroactive coverage under this group will be available to eligible individuals; however, there will be no FWG retroactive eligibility for dates prior to March 1, 2016. FWG recipients (except presumptively eligible pregnant women) will receive full Medicaid coverage. There will be an emergency services only (ESO) benefit for non-citizens eligible for FWG. All FWG recipients, except those with ESO, will be eligible to receive targeted case management services. No premiums will be collected from those in the FWG.

The FWG can be accessed by applying through [www.mibridges.michigan.gov](http://www.mibridges.michigan.gov), or through the presumptive application tool administered by a qualified entity designated and trained by MDHHS. Presumptive eligibility is determined using the income reported at the time of application. Children determined eligible using presumptive eligibility will receive full Medicaid coverage. Pregnant women determined eligible using presumptive eligibility will receive ambulatory prenatal services only until their MAGI application is processed. Once eligibility is determined through MAGI, pregnant women will receive the full Medicaid benefit.

### **Current MICHild and Freedom to Work Beneficiaries**

Pregnant women and children under 21 who are already eligible and enrolled in either the MICHild or Freedom to Work programs will be exempt from premium payments if they have been affected by Flint water in accordance with the criteria above.

### **Provider Verification of Eligibility**

Providers may verify beneficiary eligibility for the FWG eligibility category through a Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS) online eligibility inquiry or via a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) 270 transaction. The CHAMPS or 271 eligibility response for beneficiaries eligible for the FWG will show:

- A current MAGI category beginning with "F," and
- A current benefit plan of "TCMF" in addition to their assigned Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)-related benefit plans.

### **Public Comment**

The public comment portion of the policy promulgation process is being conducted concurrently with the implementation of the change noted in this bulletin. Any interested party wishing to comment on the change may do so by submitting comments in writing to:

Attn: Kayla Lowers  
MDHHS/MSA  
PO Box 30479  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7979  
Or  
E-mail: [LowersK@michigan.gov](mailto:LowersK@michigan.gov)

If responding by e-mail, please include "Flint Water Group Medical Assistance" in the subject line.

Comments received will be considered for revisions to the change implemented by this bulletin.

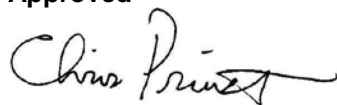
### **Manual Maintenance**

Retain this bulletin until the information is incorporated into the Bridges Eligibility Manual.

### **Questions**

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mail at [ProviderSupport@michigan.gov](mailto:ProviderSupport@michigan.gov). When you submit an e-mail be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

### **Approved**



Chris Priest, Director  
Medical Services Administration