

**Bulletin Number:** MSA 20-24

**Distribution:** Local Health Departments, Practitioners, Clinics

**Issued:** May 6, 2020

**Subject:** COVID-19 Response: Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Eligibility and Renewal Requirements

**Effective:** March 10, 2020

**Programs Affected:** Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)

Consistent with public health emergency conditions at both the state and federal level related to COVID-19, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is issuing this policy effective March 10, 2020. Given the circumstances, this policy is intended to be time-limited, and MDHHS will notify providers of its termination. This policy announces temporary policy changes regarding eligibility for Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) during the COVID-19 emergency. MDHHS will waive the requirement that beneficiaries/applicants apply for Medicaid and be placed in a 90-day temporary eligibility period (TEP) and will allow some non-physician providers to submit medical reports for CSHCS eligibility.

### **Temporary Eligibility Period (TEP)**

To avoid potential lapse in CSHCS coverage, or delay in CSHCS eligibility during the COVID-19 emergency, MDHHS will waive the requirement that families/beneficiaries/applicants be placed in a 90-day temporary eligibility period when their reported income indicates that they may be eligible for Medicaid. This applies to all beneficiaries/families/applicants who report income on the Income Review/Payment Agreement (MSA-0738) that places them in the lowest payment agreement amount (\$120 per year). During the COVID-19 emergency, all eligibility periods will be issued in 12-month increments. Beneficiaries/applicants will be encouraged, but not required, to apply for Medicaid.

### **Medical Reports for CSHCS Eligibility**

To avoid potential lapse in CSHCS coverage, or delay in CSHCS eligibility during the COVID-19 emergency, MDHHS will allow beneficiaries/applicants to submit medical reports completed and signed by nurse practitioners and physician assistants who work within the medical practice of an approved pediatric subspecialist. These medical reports must contain information regarding eligible diagnosis(es), and severity and chronicity of the diagnosis(es) as outlined in the Children's Special Health Care Services chapter of the MDHHS Medicaid Provider Manual. The MDHHS Medicaid Provider Manual is available on the MDHHS website at [www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders](http://www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders) >> Policy, Letters & Forms.

All other requirements of CSHCS financial determinations, payment agreements, and medical eligibility as outlined in the Medicaid Provider Manual remain unchanged.

### **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 to Jennifer Baumann, Policy Specialist, via e-mail at:

E-mail: [BaumannJ@michigan.gov](mailto:BaumannJ@michigan.gov)

Please include “COVID-19 Response: CSHCS Eligibility and Renewal Requirements” in the subject line.

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

### **Manual Maintenance**

Information is time-limited and will not be incorporated into any policy or procedure manuals.

### **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-mailed to [ProviderSupport@michigan.gov](mailto:ProviderSupport@michigan.gov). When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, NPI number, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

### **Approved**



Kate Massey, Director  
Medical Services Administration