

MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID

Eligibility Policy and Procedures Manual

101.10 CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILDREN

When a child under age 19 is approved for Medicaid or CHIP, eligibility continues for 12 months, regardless of changes in family income and other household circumstances. This policy must be applied when determining and re-determining eligibility for a child under age 19, regardless of category.

Continuous coverage may also be referred to as a protected period because the child cannot lose eligibility in the assigned category, unless one of a limited number of early termination reasons is met. In addition, the child's program cannot be changed (Medicaid to CHIP or vice versa), unless the Head of Household voluntarily requests early termination or the child was approved in error in the current program.

101.10.01 EARLY TERMINATION REASONS FOR CHILDREN

The following reasons may shorten the 12-month certification for a child in FCC or ABD programs, as applicable.

- If a child dies, his eligibility must be terminated.
- If a child moves out of the state, his eligibility must be terminated.
- If a child attains the maximum age for his program and an assessment of continued eligibility indicates the child is not eligible in any other FCC or ABD program, his eligibility must be terminated. Refer to 101.11.05 Exparte Reviews for further discussion on assessing eligibility in another program.
 - When a child in the Disabled Child Living at Home program will age out of this program, continued eligibility must be assessed in another program.
 - When an FCC child turning age 19 is pregnant, the child will be placed in the 88 program through the post partum period if the pregnancy information is verified and coded in MEDSX.
 - At review, an assessment of eligibility in other age-related FCC categories is automated in MEDSX. For example, the uninsured child turning age 6 during the new 12-month eligibility period will move to CHIP the month following his 6th birthday and the 85 child turning age 18 will move to the Poverty Level Medicaid (91) program. The age-out process is discussed further in the FCC Program section.

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EARLY TERMINATION REASONS FOR CHILDREN (Continued)

- When the basis of a child's eligibility is long term care, eligibility must be terminated if the child is discharged from the facility.
- If a child becomes an inmate in a public institution, his eligibility must be terminated.
- If a child becomes eligible for Medicaid through SSI or Foster Care, coverage authorized through the Medicaid Regional Office will be terminated because the child must have only one source of eligibility. (NOTE: If the child becomes eligible in another program authorized by the RO, termination in the current program must be coordinated with the opening in the new program.)
- If a child is approved in error, his eligibility must be terminated.
- If a child cannot be located after reasonable efforts, his eligibility must be terminated.
- If there is a voluntary request for closure, eligibility must be terminated.

In addition to the above termination reasons, CHIP eligibility will also be terminated within the 12-month period for these additional reasons:

- The CHIP-eligible child becomes covered by other full health insurance;
- The CHIP-eligible child becomes eligible in the 88 program due to pregnancy.

Other changes for children under age 19 in a child or family-related category of eligibility do not affect the child's eligibility prior to the end of the 12 months of continuous eligibility.

101.10.02 DEEMED ELIGIBLE INFANTS

A deemed eligible infant is a child whose mother was eligible for Medicaid in the child's birth month; however, there is no requirement that the child remain with the mother. The deemed eligible child has continuous Medicaid eligibility for a 13-month period from his birth month through the month of the first birthday unless one of the above early termination reasons is applicable.