

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.