

INSIDER'S EDGE: Issue 153: Newborns and Medicaid Coverage

It's been a beautiful and sunny week, so we're going to visit a beautiful and sunny topic, newborns and their Medicaid coverage. Longtime readers will remember we reviewed newborn coverage in previous issues ([INSIDER'S EDGE: Issue 43: Coverage for Newborns](#) and [INSIDER'S EDGE: Issue 135: SSNs and the Verification Checklist \(VCL\)](#)). This time, we're going to discuss enrolling eligible newborns in Medicaid.



Hello world! Let's enroll in Medicaid!

If the mother is enrolled in Medicaid:

- Confirm the mother's enrollment through the Eligibility Verification System (EVS). If mother is enrolled, complete the 1184 process as soon as possible. The best way to activate coverage is through the web portal. Newborns of X02 mothers (undocumented or ineligible aliens, for emergency medical services only) are entitled to undergo the 1184 process. Newborns added this way **must** still be added to Maryland Health Connection. The baby should be added as a new household member and the box indicating "applying for a SSN" should be checked.
- The 1184 process will assign a temporary Medicaid ID number to the newborn, which will remain active for one year until a permanent number is assigned by Maryland Health Connection.
- The Head of Household should update the application to report a new household member and any other changes. NOTE: If the newborn was already added to the Maryland Health Connection application (and the 1184 process wasn't completed or was delayed), the 1184 process is not necessary. However, Case Notes should be added through Maryland Health Connection to ensure that the newborn receives a full year of Medicaid eligibility without interruption.
- The newborn is automatically enrolled into the mother's Managed Care Organization (MCO). The mother has the option to change the newborn's MCO enrollment if the baby is not hospitalized and there is a 'good cause' reason (for example, enrollee moves to a county not served by enrollee's present MCO, enrollee requests that other family members be reassigned to one MCO, or enrollee moves or becomes homeless). If the mother is not yet enrolled in an MCO, an enrollment packet will be sent to her so she can select an MCO.

If the mother is not enrolled in Medicaid:

- **If the mother doesn't have active Medicaid and appears eligible**, enroll the mother and newborn through the Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE). The mother should be assisted in applying for Medicaid through Maryland Health Connection for herself and/or her newborn.
- **If the mother does not appear to be Medicaid-eligible but the child does**, process the newborn through the HPE portal, only. HPE can provide up to two months of coverage. The mother should be assisted in applying for Medicaid through Maryland Health Connection for herself and/or her newborn. HPE may only be completed with a name for the newborn.



Thanks for bear-ing with us to learn about enrolling newborns in Medicaid!

Questions? Send an email to dhmh.medicaidmarge@maryland.gov.