

Information on the Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Program

The Medicaid final rule in Title 42 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 435.1110, states that the Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) program shall be implemented as follows:

- The HPE program shall have an effective date of January 1, 2014.
- Hospitals qualified under the state plan or hospitals with a Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver will have the option as qualified entities to make presumptive eligibility (PE) determinations, and will notify DHCS of its election to do so.
- Medi-Cal benefits shall be provided during a presumptive period to individuals who are determined by a qualified hospital on the basis of preliminary information to be presumptively eligible for Medi-Cal benefits.
- Qualified hospitals will make presumptive eligibility determinations for individuals who show potential eligibility for Medi-Cal under the five primary ACA groups:
 - Children
 - Parent-caretaker relatives
 - Pregnant women
 - Former foster care children
 - “New adults”
- DHCS will establish performance standards for qualified hospitals.
- DHCS will establish a process for disqualifying hospitals who do not meet established performance standards.

DHCS is currently analyzing the various options provided in the regulations, and will be subject to stakeholder feedback in the coming months. Such options include:

- Requiring qualified hospitals to assist in completing and submitting a full application for Medi-Cal benefits.
- Limiting PE determinations to determinations for Medi-Cal programs based on income.

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In order to implement the HPE program in accordance with the requirements of the Medicaid final rule, DHCS is enacting the following:

- Individuals will be required to submit a simplified HPE application to receive PE.
- The HPE application will be submitted online by the qualified hospital. The application will not be available for submittal in a paper format.
- The HPE determination will be based on income, household size, and state residency. The qualified hospital will accept self-attestation of information and will not perform any verification checks of information provided.
- The HPE determination will be conducted in real-time.
- After completing the HPE application, the individual will receive a single streamlined application to complete. The individual will be able to complete the application online, over the phone, or in person at their local county welfare office.
- Presumptive eligibility will be granted for up to two calendar months. The eligibility period will begin the first day of the month the HPE application is submitted, and will end the last day of the following month.
- If during the PE period the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS) or Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) makes a full determination and reports to the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) that the individual does or does not qualify for Medi-Cal, the presumptive eligibility terminates at the end of the month in which the decision is made.
- Individuals who submit a full Medi-Cal application during the HPE period and are granted Medi-Cal benefits will be moved from the HPE program to the appropriate Medi-Cal program.

Senate Bill x1 1, Section 14011.66, implements the HPE program, as prescribed in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), in California.