
Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Program Process

Page updated: August 2020

This section details the Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women (PE4PW) program process and includes information about program eligibility criteria.

Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Program Overview

Under the Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women (PE4PW) program, Qualified Providers (QPs) assist individuals applying for temporary, no Share of Cost Medi-Cal benefits. Depending on the individual's self-reported information about their income, household size and state residency, if the applicant appears to be eligible for Medi-Cal based on the information provided, a QP shall determine that individual to be "presumptively eligible" for Medi-Cal.

Any Medi-Cal provider authorized to render prenatal care and qualified under the state plan is eligible to be a QP and make presumptive eligibility determinations.

Individuals may be granted coverage on the date determined eligible via the PE4PW Application Web Portal. If an insurance affordability application was not submitted, the PE enrollment period ends on the last day of the month following the month in which the individual was determined eligible for PE. If an insurance affordability application was submitted, eligibility will continue until a determination is made concerning the insurance affordability application.

Following completion of the individual's PE4PW application and submission of the individual's information through the PE4PW Application Web Portal, approved individuals will receive a copy of the *Immediate Need Eligibility Document* and an insurance affordability application to apply for healthcare coverage beyond their PE period.

Qualified Provider Responsibilities

Qualified Providers processing patient applications for PE4PW are responsible for ensuring that all personnel have taken the Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Program Provider Employee Training Course on the Medi-Cal Learning Portal (MLP) and have agreed to abide by the regulatory requirements and policies.

Newly enrolled providers must pass the training within 60 days of the approved *Qualified Provider Application and Agreement for Participation in the Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women (PE4PW) Program* (MC 311). QPs previously enrolled in the program must also pass training in order to enroll applicants electronically.

The QP understands failure to comply with the requirements of the PE4PW program may result in disenrollment from the program.

Records Management

Requirements for QP records management:

- Providers must maintain organized records of employee PE4PW training and PE4PW applications for three years from the last date of billing.
- Providers may store scanned copies of the completed *Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Program Application* (MC 263) only if the scanning system has the capability to store confidential documents securely.
- PE4PW records must be available to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for review within 30 days of DHCS' request for records dated within the three-year period.

Provider Participation

Qualified Providers are Medi-Cal providers in good standing who are authorized by DHCS' Provider Enrollment Division to render prenatal care, including pregnancy testing.

Qualified Providers:

- Agree to make PE determinations in accordance with state policies and procedures
- Have not been disqualified by DHCS from making PE determinations
- Are qualified to determine whether an individual is eligible for Medi-Cal during a PE period

Provider Identification Number (PIN)

Providers must have a Provider Identification Number (PIN) to participate in the PE4PW process. A PIN allows providers to submit the patient's application using the PE4PW Application Web Portal. Providers may contact the Telephone Service Center (TSC) at 1-800-541-5555, seven days a week, from 6 a.m. to midnight, for instructions about obtaining a PIN.

Required Application

Providers must complete the *Qualified Provider Application and Agreement for Participation in the Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women (PE4PW) Program* (MC 311) to become a PE provider or to request an update to their MC 311. Providers may refer to the *Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Provider Enrollment Instructions* manual section, which details the steps for filling out the form.

Applicant Criteria

To qualify for PE4PW, applicants must:

- Have income below the monthly limit for household size. The PE4PW “Federal Poverty Level Chart” is available under the “Income Eligibility Guidelines” heading in the [Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women](#) Part 2 manual section.
- Be a California resident.
- Receive no Medi-Cal coverage.
- Have no prior PE enrollment period during the current pregnancy.

Permitted PE Enrollment Periods

The number of PE enrollment periods an individual may receive are limited. PE enrollment periods received from any PE program listed below, other than PE4PW, are limited during the 12 month period following the initial enrollment in PE as indicated in the table below:

«PE Enrollment Periods Permitted Within Past 12 Months»

Medi-Cal PE Programs	PE Enrollment Period Permitted Within Past 12 Months
Hospital PE - Pregnant Women	No more than one PE period per pregnancy
Hospital PE - Children Under 19 Years of Age	No more than two PE periods within a 12 month period, starting with the effective date of the initial PE period
Hospital PE - Parents and Caretaker Relatives	No more than one PE period within a 12 month period, starting with the effective date of the initial PE period
Hospital PE - Former Foster Care	No more than one PE period within a 12 month period, starting with the effective date of the initial PE period
Hospital PE - Adults	No more than one PE period within a 12 month period, starting with the effective date of the initial PE period
Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Gateway	No more than two PE periods within a 12 month period, starting with the effective date of the initial PE period
Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program (BCCTP)	No more than one PE period within a 12 month period, starting with the effective date of the initial PE period
PE for Pregnant Women	No more than one PE period per pregnancy

Individuals are not eligible for PE4PW if they:

- Are not residents of California
- Exceed applicable income limits
- Have current Medi-Cal coverage
- Have received PE benefits for the current pregnancy

Duration of PE Enrollment Period

The Presumptive Eligibility (PE) enrollment period begins on the day an individual is approved for PE.

The PE enrollment period ends either:

- On the last day of the following month in which determined eligible for PE4PW, if the pregnant woman did not file an insurance affordability application prior to the PE enrollment period end date.
- On the day the eligibility determination is made, if the insurance affordability application is filed prior to the PE enrollment period end date.

The PE effective date cannot be backdated before the approval date regardless of the reason. However, individuals may submit a completed insurance affordability application before the PE enrollment period terminates to apply for full scope Medi-Cal. The individual marks the box that indicates the individual had medical expenses in the last three months and requires help to pay.

Application Submission

The following are important steps for providers in preparing to submit the *Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Program Application* (MC 263).

Acquire Application

The application is available on the Medi-Cal website at www.medi-cal.ca.gov in the Transactions area. The printable PDF version (MC 263-P) is available in both English and Spanish for the applicant or authorized representative to complete with the necessary information.

Review Application

Providers are not responsible for verifying information given by applicants. Providers are responsible only for assuring that the applicant understands the questions and that the application is completed and signed.

Input Information

Providers input the applicant's verbal or written answers from the MC 263-P into the automated MC-263 in the Transactions area of the Medi-Cal website.

Print Summary for Applicant's Signature

Providers print the summary of the completed PE4PW application for the applicant or authorized representative to sign prior to online submission. The PE4PW application is not complete without a valid signature.

Safeguard Patient Confidentiality

Providers must have safeguards in place when completing the application process to ensure patient confidentiality of the information provided on the application.

Application Summary

Providers must retain a signed *Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Program Application* (MC 263) in the applicant's medical record for three years from the last date of billing. Providers also must give a copy of the signed MC 263 to the applicant or authorized representative for the applicant's records.

PE4PW providers are required to supply individuals with an eligibility response confirmation from their MC 263 application, along with a copy of the insurance affordability application.

Completing the PE4PW Application Online

To initiate the PE4PW application process, applicants may provide their information verbally to the QP or enter it on the MC 263-P. The QP enters the information provided by the applicant online for processing. Once the online application is submitted, the applicant's information is transmitted to the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) for data matching to determine if the applicant is currently known or has established eligibility. The PE4PW determination is conducted in real-time and providers receive a timely eligibility response of approval or denial.

Instructions for completing the online application are included in the *Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Program User Guide*. The user guide may be downloaded from the Medi-Cal website at www.medi-cal.ca.gov.

Applicant Take-Home Information

Providers must give approved PE4PW applicants a copy of the *Immediate Needs Eligibility Document*, after the applicant has signed it, and an insurance affordability application. This will facilitate the application process for ongoing health care coverage beyond the PE enrollment period.

Continuation of Benefits

An individual's PE enrollment period may continue if an insurance affordability application is submitted prior to the PE end date and the insurance affordability application is pending. PE4PW benefits continue until a determination is made on the insurance affordability application.

Individuals may complete the insurance affordability application in paper format, online, over the phone, or in person at their local county welfare office. Individuals must complete and submit the insurance affordability application before the PE enrollment period end date to be eligible to receive continuing health care coverage.

If individuals have questions about the application process, providers may refer them to Covered California at 1-800-300-1506 or the Covered California website at www.coveredca.com.

<<Legend>>

<<Symbols used in the document above are explained in the following table.>>

Symbol	Description
<<	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change begins.
>>	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change ends.