
Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Program Process

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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 Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women (PE4PW) application in the Medi-Cal Provider 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 submission of the individual's information through the Medi-Cal Provider Portal PE4PW application, 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 Providers

“Qualified Providers” (QPs) are Medi-Cal providers approved by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to grant immediate, temporary Medi-Cal coverage for ambulatory prenatal care and prescription drugs for conditions related to pregnancy to low-income, pregnant patients, pending their formal Medi-Cal application.

PE4PW

For simplicity, Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women is referred to as PE4PW.>>

Telephone Service Center (TSC) Information

«For assistance with registration in the Provider Portal or completing the application, contact the Medi-Cal Telephone Service Center (TSC) at 1-800-541-5555 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Hospitals may navigate through the menu prompts by selecting option 1 for provider, option 9 for all other calls, the appropriate option for language (English or Spanish), option 4 for the Technical Help Desk and option 2 for PE for Pregnant Women.

Refer to the [Provider Portal User Guide: Provider Organization](#) for instruction on how to register to the Medi-Cal Provider Portal.>>

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 and the Newborn Gateway Presumptive Eligibility 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 completing the electronic *Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Provider Application and Agreement*.

Each provider employee authorized to conduct PE4PW transactions must stay current with any changes to the PE4PW program. PE4PW program changes will be sent out through provider bulletins, notices and/or additional training programs.>>

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

«Provider Enrollment Instructions

This section provides providers instructions to complete the electronic *Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Provider Application and Agreement* in the Medi-Cal Provider Portal. In order to enroll as a “Qualified Provider”, the provider must complete and sign the electronic participation agreement and agree to comply with all applicable PE4PW Program requirements and policies.

Qualified providers should review the following list to ensure completion of all steps necessary for PE4PW enrollment:

1. Completed the electronic *Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Provider Application and Agreement* located in the Medi-Cal Provider Portal. The application/agreement must be completed and signed before taking training. Individuals authorized to sign the agreement are as follows:
 - Assistant administrator
 - Chief administrator
 - Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
 - Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
 - Chief Medical Officer (CMO)
 - Controller
 - Director
 - Director of central business office
 - Division manager of patient business services
 - Owner
 - Patient financial services director
 - President/vice president
 - Treasurer
 - Vice president of financial operations

Note: Authorized individuals must be assigned as Administrators in the Medi-Cal Provider Portal.>>

2. Obtained a Medi-Cal Learning Portal (MLP) user ID and password and completed the appropriate PE4PW training.

«Refer to the [Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women \(PE4PW\) Application Web Portal User Guide](#) for instructions on how to complete the electronic *Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Provider Application and Agreement*.»

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

Required Application

«Providers must complete the *Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Provider Application and Agreement* to become a PE provider.»

«PE4PW 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 |
| «Children's Presumptive Eligibility (CPE)» | 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.

«PE4PW Application Submission

The following are important steps for providers in preparing to submit the Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women (PE4PW) application in the Medi-Cal Provider Portal.»

Acquire Application

«A PDF version of the application, titled, *Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women Program Application* (MC 263-P), is available to download within the Resource tab in the PE4PW area of the Provider Portal.» 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 Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women (PE4PW) application in the Medi-Cal Provider Portal.»

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 Signed Copies

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 \(PE4PW\) Application Web Portal User Guide](#).» The user guide may be downloaded from the Medi-Cal Providers website.

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. |