

Karen House, CAF Medical Program Manager

**Authorized Signature**

**Number:** SS-IM-09-067

**Issue Date:** 12/15/09

**Topic:** Medical Benefits

**Subject:** Overview of January 2010 Medical Policy Changes

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                        | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging        | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): CAF SSP transmittal group |

**Message:** Effective January 1, 2010, several medical policy changes will be implemented.

Most of the January medical policy changes are to support Healthy Kids, including:

- Implementation of the new Healthy KidsConnect program. Healthy KidsConnect will provide access to insurance for all non-CAWEM children with family income at or above 201% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL);
- Changes to the Medicaid and CHIP alien status policy for children under age 19;
- New requirement to document citizenship for CHIP children.

Other January changes that are not part of Healthy Kids:

- New American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Making Work Pay income exclusion policy.

**Healthy KidsConnect Overview:**

DHS/AAA will determine eligibility for Healthy KidsConnect (HKC). The policy will be very similar to OHP-CHP, except that the countable income limit for HKC will be at or above 201% FPL.

- DHS will partner with the Office of Private Health Partnerships (OPHP).
- OPHP will have contracts with insurance carriers around the state who will provide health insurance benefits to families similar to OHP Plus benefits.

- Once eligibility has been determined and the case updated with the KCA (“**KidsConnect Approved** for referral) coding, the CM system will send an automated referral to OPHP.
- OPHP will work with HKC families to ensure the family has access to health insurance and, if eligible, provide subsidies to help the family pay for the health insurance premium. Not every family will qualify for a subsidy from OPHP.

### **HKC subsidies:**

- Families with non-CAWEM children under age 19 with income 201% up to 251% FPL will qualify for a HKC insurance premium subsidy of approximately 90% of the health insurance premium’s cost.
- Families with non-CAWEM children under age 19 with income 251% up to 301% FPL will qualify for a subsidy of approximately 80% of the health insurance premium’s cost.
- Families with non-CAWEM children under age 19 with income 301% and above the FPL do not qualify for a subsidy, but may access health insurance through OPHP and pay the entire insurance premium.

### **Waiting for KidsConnect (WKC) reminder:**

Children who qualified for OHP Plus benefits on November 30 and who, except for being over the OHP-CHP income limit, would have qualified for OHP-CHP on December 1 are to remain on OHP Plus medical until their HKC benefits can begin.

- The goal is to keep children on medical until HKC is implemented January 1.
- Code the family with the WKC (**W**aiting for **K**ids**C**onnect) need/resource item and transfer the case to the OHP Statewide Processing Center (5503).
- 5503 will convert the case, add the KCA (**K**ids**C**onnect **A**pproved for referral) coding and keep the case.

**Note:** For more information about the WKC process and coding requirements, please see [SS-AR-09-015](#) “Medical Case Transfers to Support Healthy Kids Program” transmittal.

### **New non-citizen policy:**

The alien status policy for children under age 19 was expanded October 1, 2009 so that LPR children are not required to wait five years in order to qualify for full Medicaid or CHIP benefits.

Effective January 1, 2010, the alien status policy for children under age 19 will be expanded again. For example:

- Citizens of a Compact of Free Association who have been admitted as non-immigrants will qualify for full Medicaid or CHIP benefits.
- Children who are in non-immigrant classifications who are permitted to remain in the U.S. for an indefinite period will qualify for full Medicaid or CHIP benefits.

**Note:** The above is a partial list. All of the changes will be added to the Family Services Manual citizenship chart and to OAR [461-120-0125](#) for January 1.

### **CHIP Citizenship Documentation Requirements:**

Effective January 1, 2010 CHIP children who are U.S. citizens will be required to document citizenship.

- The CHIP citizenship documentation requirements will be the same as the Medicaid documentation requirements, including the requirement to code citizenship status on Person Alias/Update.

### **ARRA Making Work Pay Income Exclusion:**

Effective January 1, 2010, the Making Work Pay Tax Credit Exclusion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“ARRA”) will be simplified.

- Effective January 1, every working MAA, MAF, OHP, OSIPM, QMB or SAC client qualifies for the \$33.00 income exclusion per month. The new \$33.00 amount replaces the former exclusions of \$38.00 and \$100.00.
- The new monthly exclusion of \$33.00 will last until December 31, 2010. A transmittal will be sent late in 2010 that will inform staff the \$33.00 exclusion will end December 31.
- For ongoing clients, apply the new \$33.00 income exclusion at the next redetermination.

**Note:** The \$33.00 amount applies to all clients with earned income, regardless of whether they receive SSI, SSDI, SSB, Railroad Retirement, Veterans disability or Veterans pension payments.

### **Training:**

Healthy KidsConnect will be implemented January 1, 2010. To help support these changes in the Medicaid programs various training dates will be offered to staff over the next few weeks. These trainings will be held via Video Conference (VCON) or Netlink.

Please note the following VCON training dates and times. An announcement for the Netlink training schedule will follow.

### **VCON Dates**

Dec 29-8:30 AM VCON

Jan 05-8:30 AM VCON

Jan 05-1:30 PM VCON

Jan 07-8:30 AM VCON  
Jan 07-1:30 PM VCON

Jan 13 8:30 AM VCON  
Jan 13-1:30 PM VCON

If you wish to attend a VCON, branch managers or a lead worker should contact your local VCON coordinator to ensure that the room and equipment have been reserved for a particular date. Once the equipment has been reserved, branch managers/lead workers will need to email Cori Budrow, Betty Silva or Annette Aylett no later than 3 days before the proposed VCON training. Please include in your email the date and session you plan on attending as well as the site (location) you will be attending. VCON's are not located on the Learning Center.

Each VCON is expected to last approximately 2 hours.

**Contacts:** For SSP: [SSP-Policy, Medical](#)  
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*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

<b>Contact(s):</b>	see above		
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