**IMMIGRANT ELIGIBILITY FOR CALIFORNIA HEALTH PROGRAMS**

**Children’s Medi-Cal eligibility**

Beginning May 2016, all California children will be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal coverage regardless of immigration status.

Those children enrolled in restricted scope Medi-Cal are to be automatically enrolled into full scope Medi-Cal. They will become members of CenCal Health and will need to choose a primary care provider (probably CHC). Those who were not enrolled in restricted scope Medi-Cal can apply at the Department of Social Services.

Coverage will be retroactive to May 1, 2016 for those that apply in May.

Efforts to cover undocumented adults will continue with the current legislative session with SB-10 - Lara.

**CHDP Gateway (children only)**

An uninsured child may apply for Gateway through their CHDP provider, and be provided full-scope Medi-Cal for the month in which they apply and through the following month. These benefits are provided so that children have health care while the family applies for Medi-Cal. These children will now be able to get full scope Medi-Cal regardless of their immigration status.

New: CHDP Gateway enrollment is now limited to twice a year.

**Hospital presumptive eligibility (adults and children)**

Under the Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (PE) program, hospitals can assist patients who are getting services from or being admitted to the hospital in applying for temporary fee-for-service full-scope Medi-Cal benefits. The applicant must be in a low-income family, must not currently have Medi-Cal and cannot have received PE within the past 12 months. (Children are eligible for Hospital PE twice within 12 months).

There are no questions about immigration status. Eligibility begins on the date the application is filed and the following month. Eligibility continues during the application determination period if an application is filed. Children should apply for full-scope Medi-Cal. There are no retroactive benefits in this program.

**“PRUCOL” Medi-Cal eligibility**

In California, immigrants who are “permanently residing under color of law” (PRUCOL) are eligible for full scope Medi-Cal if they meet other eligibility criteria. PRUCOL status is for immigrants who the immigration authorities know are in the United States and have no intention of deporting.

If an applicant checks the box on the DSS application MC-13 indicating the immigration authorities know of their presence in the US and have no intention of deporting them, there is no further documentation required by DSS to process the Medi-Cal application and they will be granted full-scope Medi-Cal.

**Restricted scope Medi-Cal**

Immigrants who are not eligible for full scope Medi-Cal can receive emergency and pregnancy-related services under what is known as restricted-scope or emergency Medi-Cal. Applications are processed through the County Department of Social Services. Recipients will receive Medi-Cal cards noting their entitlement to services to treat an emergency medical condition or for pregnancy-related services.

**DACA/DAPA**

President Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). program in 2012 to defer deportation for certain undocumented persons who came to the United States at a young age, have continually resided here, and are either in school or working. In California, people who obtain DACA status are entitled to full-scope Medi-Cal if they otherwise qualify.

The program was expanded in November, 2014 and a new program was added for deferred action for undocumented parents of citizen and legal permanent resident children (Deferred Action for Parent of Americans and Legal Permanent Residents (DAPA)). The US Supreme Court is reviewing a federal court injunction issued in Texas that placed the program on hold. Ruling may come in June 2016. No DAPA applications are being accepted. If, and when, DAPA is instituted those persons with DAPA status will be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal. Stay tuned.

**Affordable Care Act**

Undocumented individuals are not eligible for any Covered California benefits – cannot purchase insurance or receive subsidies. Undocumented persons are not subject to the “individual mandate” or the penalties for not having insurance. But they are responsible for eligible family members.

Legal residents receive the same benefits as citizens.

**Other health programs:**

Additional programs, including California Children’s Services, Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Fund, AIM and WIC provide services to undocumented immigrants.

For further information, see

<http://undocumentedanduninsured.org/>

<http://www.caimmigrant.org/what-we-do/healthcare/>

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