

Implementation Guide: Medicaid State Plan Eligibility Presumptive Eligibility Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women

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Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women

POLICY CITATION

Statute: 1920 and 1920A

Regulation: 42 CFR 435.1101, 435.1102, 435.1103

BACKGROUND

Overview

This reviewable unit (RU) describes the provisions under which the state determines presumptive eligibility (PE) for the mandatory eligibility group for pregnant women. This option, as described at 42 CFR 435.1103, allows an individual to be determined presumptively eligible by a qualified entity and to access Medicaid-covered services for ambulatory prenatal care while his or her full application is being processed. A full eligibility determination is not immediately needed and cannot be required in order for PE to be approved. An individual may attest to information needed to make a PE determination, such as income, household size, and, at state option, citizenship and residency, but verification of such information is not required.

See the implementation guide for the **Pregnant Women** RU (or **Pregnant Women – Territories**) for background information about the eligibility group.

Presumptive Eligibility Determination

To be determined presumptively eligible, an individual must meet the categorical requirements of the eligibility group for pregnant women. Individuals who qualify under this group: 1) must be pregnant or post-partum, as defined in 42 CFR 435.4 and 2) have household income that does not exceed the income eligibility level established by the state plan. An individual cannot be required to provide a Social Security Number in order to receive a PE determination.

Option: Household Income. As described at 42 CFR 435.1102(a), in determining household income for PE, the state may use either gross income or a reasonable estimate of MAGI. A full MAGI-based eligibility determination cannot be required to determine PE. To arrive at a reasonable estimate of MAGI, states may utilize a simplified methodology such as determining household composition following the rules for non-filers described at 42 CFR 435.603(f).

Option: Additional PE Determination Factors of Residency and Citizenship. In addition to the categorical and income requirements, states may elect to consider state residency and U.S. citizenship or eligible immigration status when making a PE determination. Verification of such information is not required. If a state does not elect these options in the state plan, then attestation of residency, citizenship and immigration status cannot be required as part of the PE application process.

Qualified Entities

A qualified entity is an entity that is determined by the agency to be capable of making PE determinations based on an individual's household income and other requirements. Qualified

entities can also help families gather the documents needed to complete the full application process, thereby reducing the administrative burden on states to obtain missing information.

Many different types of entities can serve as a qualified entity to make PE determinations. Qualified entities may include health care providers, schools, community-based organizations, agencies that determine eligibility for other health or social services programs, jails, or entities of the courts, among others.

The qualified entities selected by a state must be appropriately trained on the state's PE screening process and the requirements for PE, as described at section 1920(c) of the Social Security Act (the Act). A copy of the state's training materials is submitted with this RU for CMS review.

Application for Presumptive Eligibility

States have different options for developing and administering the PE application, but they must establish a standardized screening process for determining PE. States are not required to use a written application for PE; they may utilize verbal screening questions, a written application, or an online portal. Whichever process is used, the qualified entity is responsible for collecting and recording all information necessary to make a PE determination.

If the state requires a written application, either the single, streamlined application or a PE-specific application may be used. When the single, streamlined application is used, it must denote those fields that are required for a PE determination. A PE-specific application may not include questions that are not relevant to a PE determination. If an online portal or electronic screening tool is used for PE, it must meet the same guidelines. Both written and electronic applications are submitted with the **Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women** RU for approval.

Presumptive Eligibility Period

Individuals may be covered under a PE determination only for a limited period of time. Section 1920A(b)(2) of the Act, codified at 42 CFR 435.1101, discusses the beginning and end dates for coverage based on PE, as follows.

- **Beginning:** The PE period begins on the day that a qualified entity determines the individual to be presumptively eligible.
- **End:** The end date varies depending on whether or not the individual submits a Medicaid application.
 - If the individual submits a Medicaid application by the last day of the month following the month in which PE was determined, the PE period will continue until full Medicaid eligibility is either approved or denied.
 - If the individual does not submit a Medicaid application, the PE period ends on the last day of the month following the month in which PE was determined.

Example: PE is determined on the 5th of February. If a full Medicaid application is not submitted by March 30th, coverage will end on that date. If a full Medicaid application is filed by March 30th, PE coverage ends on the day the full Medicaid application is either approved or denied.

The number of presumptive eligibility periods that may be authorized for pregnant women is one per pregnancy.

INSTRUCTIONS

A. Presumptive Eligibility Period

- **A.1.** has a general rule that the PE period begins on the date the determination is made.
- **A.2.** has rules for the end date of the PE period.
- **A.3.** has a statement that there may be no more than one period of PE per pregnancy.

B. Application for Presumptive Eligibility

- At **B.1.**, indicate that a standardized screening process is used for determining PE. To do this, check the box next to the assurance.
- Select one or more of the three options at **B.2.** through **B.4.** You may select:
 - Option **B.2.** alone
 - Option **B.3.** alone
 - Option **B.4.** alone
 - Both options **B.3.** and **B.4.**
- Upload at least one document (application form or screen shot) for each option that is selected. These uploaded documents will become part of the state plan.
- If you select both **B.3.** and **B.4.**, at **B.5.**, describe the PE screening process in the text box provided.

C. Presumptive Eligibility Determination

- **C.1.** has a statement that the woman must be pregnant.
- At **C.2.**, select one of the two options regarding the income counting methodology.
- Select **C.3.** and/or **C.4.** only if applicable in your state.

D. Qualified Entities

- **D.1.** describes the use of qualified entities to determine PE.
- At **D.2.**, select the *Add/Modify Qualified Entities* button to display the **Qualified Entities** screen.
 - Select one or more types of qualified entities.
 - If an entity is used that is not listed, select *Other entity the agency determines is capable of making presumptive eligibility determinations*
 - Provide the name of the entity and a description in the text boxes provided
 - To add additional *Other* entities, select the *+Add Other entity* link.
 - To remove an *Other* entity, select the *Delete* link under it.
 - When finished selecting qualified entities, select the *Save Qualified Entities* button and the entities that were selected will be displayed in section D of the RU.

- At **D.3.**, indicate that the requirements for qualified entities at 1920A(b)(3) of the Act have been communicated and adequate training has been provided to the entities involved. To do this, check the box next to the assurance.
- At **D.4.**, upload a copy of the qualified entity training materials for review (e.g., PowerPoint or webinar training slides, written instructions or manual for PE determinations). These uploaded documents are submitted for reference only and will not become part of the state plan.

E. Additional Information (optional)

Except in limited circumstances, this field remains blank. Please consult with CMS before adding any additional information concerning this RU.

REVIEW CRITERIA

If the state selects Other qualified entity at D.2., the description of the entity needs to explain why the state believes this entity is qualified to determine presumptive eligibility, including such factors as knowledge of Medicaid policy and experience with Medicaid beneficiaries. The description must be sufficiently clear, detailed and complete to permit the reviewer to determine that the state's election meets applicable federal statutory, regulatory and policy requirements.