



## **MEPD and TW Bulletin 24-11**

**Date:** August 12, 2024

**To:** Eligibility Services Supervisors and Staff  
Program Managers  
Regional Directors  
Regional Attorneys  
Hearings Officers

**From:** Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy  
State Office 2106

**Subject: Update - Continuous Eligibility for Medicaid for Children under 19  
- Medicare Savings Programs and Supplemental Security Income**

---

The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- [Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities Handbook \(MEPDH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins>;
- [Texas Works Handbook \(TWH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins>.

## **Update - Continuous Eligibility for Medicaid for Children under 19 - MSP and SSI Income**

### **Background**

On Dec. 29, 2022, H.R. 2617, the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), 2023 was signed into law. Section 5112 of the CAA, 2023, requires states to provide children under 19 years of age with 12 months of continuous eligibility (CE) coverage in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This federal law change became effective Jan. 1, 2024.

This bulletin provides additional policy to support the implementation of continuous eligibility in Medicaid for children under age 19, specifically children who are certified for a Medicare Savings Program (MSP) and children who are losing eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Continue to follow policy and processes provided in [MEPD and TW Bulletin 23-18 Continuous Eligibility for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) for Children under 19](#).

### **Current Policy**

#### [Medical Programs - MEPD](#)

##### *Medicare Savings Programs*

Low-income Medicare beneficiaries may be eligible for an MSP to help pay for all or some of their out-of-pocket Medicare expenses, such as premiums, deductibles, or coinsurances.

Eligible MSP recipients, including children under age 19, are certified for 12 months. MSP eligibility is redetermined at periodic intervals, not to exceed 12 months and when necessary to address anticipated or reported change(s) in circumstances. ([MEPDH B-8200, Redetermination Cycles](#)).

During the annual federal poverty level (FPL) updates, eligible Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB) recipients may transition to Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB) or Qualifying Individuals (QI-1) due to the annual cost of living adjustment increase.

##### *Supplemental Security Income*

The Social Security Administration (SSA) determines eligibility for SSI. SSI recipients, including children under age 19, are automatically eligible for Medicaid.

When a recipient no longer qualifies for SSI, eligibility is explored for all other medical programs prior to termination. If the recipient, including a child under age 19, is not eligible for another Medicaid program, Medicaid benefits are terminated. ([MEPD and TW Bulletin 23-07, 2. Processing Case Actions for Medical Programs](#))

## **New Policy**

### Medical Programs - MEPD

#### *Medicare Savings Program*

Children under age 19 who are determined eligible and certified for MSP at application or an annual redetermination receive 12 months of continuous eligibility (CE).

Children under age 19 remain continuously eligible for the full 12-month certification period, regardless of most changes in circumstances, with certain exceptions.

The following are exceptions to the CE period:

- Death;
- Moves out of state;
- Voluntary withdrawal;
- Not validly enrolled due to being certified in error at application or HHSC's OIG has determined the person fraudulently received Medicaid and coverage should be denied;
- Reaches age 19.

During the annual federal poverty level (FPL) updates, children who are certified for the QMB program will not automatically transition to SLMB or QI-1 due to an increase in income. QMB eligibility will be sustained for the remainder of the 12-month certification period. The child's eligibility must be reviewed at the next annual redetermination.

#### *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*

Medicaid must be maintained for children under age 19 who are no longer eligible for SSI and are not eligible for another type of Medicaid.

TIERS automatically sustains the child's SSI Medicaid for the remainder of the 12-month certification period, unless one of the CE exceptions apply. The 12-month SSI certification period is based on the SSI eligibility begin date.

## **Automation**

Changes to TIERS are currently scheduled to be implemented with TIERS Release 118.0 on Aug. 24, 2024.

## **Correspondence**

Correspondence changes are not required.

**Handbook**

The MEPDH is currently scheduled to be updated in the December 2024 revision.

Updates to the TWH are not required.

**Training**

Training will be made available in the Program Area Learning Management System (PALMS) as part of Release 118.0 General Information on Aug. 15, 2024, and a training broadcast will be sent with further details.

**Effective Date**

This policy is effective for applications and renewals disposed on or after Aug. 24, 2024.