



MEPD and TW Bulletin 24-05

Date: May 3, 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: Updates to Extending Postpartum Coverage in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

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>.

Updates to Extending Postpartum Coverage in Medicaid and CHIP

Background

House Bill (H.B.) 12, passed by the 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, requires Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to provide 12 months of postpartum Medicaid coverage to women receiving Medicaid at the time their pregnancy ends. Federal guidance also requires the same 12-month postpartum coverage be provided to pregnant members in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). H.B. 12 went into effect on March 1, 2024.

This bulletin provides additional guidance to support the implementation of H.B. 12. Continue to also follow policy and processes in [MEPD and TW Bulletin #24-01, 4. Extending Postpartum Coverage in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#).

Current Policy

Unverified Pregnancies

[Department of Family and Protective Services \(DFPS\), Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\), Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities \(MEPD\), and Medicaid for Breast and Cervical Cancer \(MBCC\)](#)

When a woman's DFPS, SSI, MEPD or MBCC type of assistance is terminated and there is a report of an unverified pregnancy on file, no action is taken to make an eligibility determination for Medicaid for Pregnant Women.

A report of an unverified pregnancy is based on information received through an interface and either the start or end date of the pregnancy has not been captured. In addition, the woman has not applied for Medicaid for Pregnant Women.

A report of a verified pregnancy includes the start and/or end date of the pregnancy and the number of expected children.

New Policy

Unverified Pregnancies

[DFPS, SSI, MEPD and MBCC](#)

When a recipient is terminated from a DFPS, SSI, MEPD or MBCC type of assistance, and unverified pregnancy information is received through an interface, certify the woman on TP 40 with postponed verification and send Form H1020, Request for Information or Action. If verification is provided, the woman is eligible for TP 40 coverage through her pregnancy and/or 12-month postpartum period. If verification is not provided by the 30th day or verification indicates the woman does not meet eligibility requirements, TP 40 eligibility is terminated.

Note: TIERS will automatically transition the woman to TP 40 and send the Form H1020, if postponed verification is required.

[MEPD and MBCC Individuals Under 19](#)

If pregnancy verification is not provided by the 30th day, TP 40 coverage is terminated and the MEPD or MBCC type of assistance is re-established based on continuous eligibility for children under 19 policies.

[Verified Pregnancies](#)

[MBCC](#)

An MBCC recipient who has a verified pregnancy remains on MBCC until they no longer meet the eligibility criteria. If the recipient becomes ineligible for MBCC, transition the woman to TP 40 for the remainder of her pregnancy and/or 12-month postpartum period.

Note: TIERS will automatically transition pregnant or postpartum women to TP 40 when the MBCC coverage is denied.

Automation

Changes to TIERS are currently scheduled to be implemented with TIERS Release 117.1 on May 11, 2024. The new policies affect the following Alerts:

- Alert 915 applies to MBCC TOAs.
- Alert 916 applies to all MAGI TOAs.
- Alert 549 applies to all TW Medicaid TOAs.

The Change and Alert Guide will be updated to include new Alert processes.

Correspondence

Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook

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

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the October 2024 revision.

Training

A web-based training (WBT) titled R117.1 General Information was made available in PALMS on May 1, 2024. The Office of Learning and Professional Development (OLPD) sent a training broadcast with further details.

Effective Date

This policy is effective with the implementation of TIERS Release 117.1 currently scheduled for May 11, 2024.