MEPD and Texas Works Bulletin 20-25

Date: October 22, 2020

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

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
      State Office 2115

Subject: Retest Medicaid Eligibility for Persons Certified on Children’s
         Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or CHIP Perinatal (CHIP-P)

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) at
  https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins;
Retest Medicaid Eligibility for Persons Certified on Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or CHIP Perinatal (CHIP-P)

Background
Federal regulations require that a person must remain ineligible for Medicaid to remain continuously eligible for CHIP or CHIP-P. Changes are necessary to ensure HHSC policy, process and automation are in alignment with federal regulations.

Current Policy
Texas Works Medical Programs
When an application is received requesting health care coverage, a person must be determined ineligible for Medicaid before being determined eligible for CHIP or CHIP-P. (TWH D-110, General Policy)

If eligible, the person is certified for 12 months of continuous coverage and remains certified on CHIP or CHIP-P even if a change in income is reported that would make them potentially eligible for Medicaid. The person must submit a new application and have income less than the limit for Medicaid to be determined eligible for Medicaid during their CHIP or CHIP-P certification period. (TWH D-1730, Continuous Enrollment Period)

New Policy
Texas Works Medical Programs
When information is received that indicates a person certified for CHIP or CHIP-P is potentially eligible for Medicaid, test eligibility for Medicaid without requiring a new application. If eligible for Medicaid, the person must receive a new Medicaid certification period.

Automation
When staff process a change for a person certified for CHIP or CHIP-P, TIERS will automatically test for Medicaid eligibility. A new application will not be required.

In addition, the “Test Adult” and “Test All” check boxes have been removed from the Program – Details LUW because TIERS no longer requires these fields when retesting Medicaid eligibility for a person certified for CHIP or CHIP-P.

Changes to TIERS are currently scheduled to be implemented with TIERS Release 108.0 on October 24, 2020.

Correspondence
Correspondence changes are not required.
**Handbook**

The Texas Works Handbook is currently scheduled to be updated in the April 2021 revision.

Updates to the MEPD Handbook are not required.

**Training**

Training was made available through a TIERS Release training titled “R108 General Information” on October 22, 2020.

**Effective Date**

This policy is effective with the implementation of TIERS Release 108.0 currently scheduled for October 24, 2020.