

# Hospital Presumptive Eligibility: Overview

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## **What Is Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (PE)?**

- Allows hospitals to provide temporary Medicaid coverage to individuals likely to qualify for Medicaid
- Previously, option limited to children or pregnant women and available only in states that selected this option
- Now available as an option for qualified hospitals in every state for all individuals eligible for Medicaid on the basis of modified adjusted gross income (MAGI)

## **Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility**

- **State option for children and pregnant women**

- Qualified entities asked for info about household size and income
- Patients likely to qualify for Medicaid are “presumed eligible” and receive immediate temporary access to care
- Payment for services guaranteed to providers
- Opportunity to encourage and assist with full Medicaid application

## Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility (Cont.)

- Under Affordable Care Act, states that had previously adopted the PE option can expand program to other populations
  - Parents and caretaker relatives
  - Childless adults covered by state's Medicaid program
  - Former foster children
  - Individuals seeking family-planning services

## Affordable Care Act Hospital PE Program

- Hospital PE determinations can be made in every state regardless of whether the state had previously adopted the PE option
- Hospitals can make PE determinations for any individuals likely eligible for Medicaid under state guidelines, including
  - Children
  - Pregnant women
  - Parents and caretaker relatives
  - Former foster children

## Affordable Care Act Hospital PE Program (Cont.)

- **Hospital PE available to new populations if covered by state**
  - Adults with income above 133% federal poverty levels and under age 65
  - Individuals eligible for family planning services
  - Individuals seeking treatment for breast or cervical cancer
  - States can also allow hospital PE determinations for other groups, including people who are aged 65+, are blind or have disabilities, as well as groups covered by 1115 waivers

## **Affordable Care Act Hospital PE Program (Cont.)**

- ❑ Hospital PE determinations can also be made for patients' families and eligible individuals from the broader community

## How Hospital PE Works

- Hospital employee trained in conducting hospital PE determination helps individual with application
- If PE is approved
  - Hospital provides
    - Written eligibility notice
    - Beginning and end dates
    - Summary of benefits
- If PE is denied, hospital must provide reason for denial
- CMS recommends hospitals encourage all individuals to apply for full Medicaid, regardless of PE status

## Qualified Hospitals

- **Participate in the Medicaid program**
- **Notify the state of its intention to make PE determinations by the process specified by the state**
- **Agree to make PE determinations consistent with policies and procedures of the state**

## Making Hospital PE Determinations

- Any PE trained hospital employee may make PE determinations
  - Includes employees in hospital-owned physician practices or clinics, even if off site
- Hospitals may not delegate PE determinations to third-party vendors or contractors
- Hospitals may use third-party contractors to support PE implementation
- Hospitals must notify the state of PE approvals within five days

## **States Must**

- Provide qualified hospitals with training in all applicable policies and procedures related to PE**
- Submit Medicaid State Plan Amendment outlining hospital PE implementation process**
  - State eligibility policies and procedures
  - Training materials
  - Hospital PE application (if using written form)
- Limit pregnant women to one hospital PE period per pregnancy**
- Collect data on hospital PE performance to fulfill their oversight responsibilities**

## **States May**

- Require citizenship or residency self-attestations**
- Choose application format**
  - No written application
  - Short form
  - Standard Medicaid application with limited questions
- Require hospitals to assist with full application**

## **States May (Cont.)**

- Require hospitals to administer knowledge tests to employees making PE determinations**
- Limit hospital PE periods within a time span**
- Take corrective action against hospitals**
  - But cannot disqualify hospital making PE determinations until after state has provided additional training or taken other reasonable corrective action measures to address the issue

## Potential Performance Standards

- Proportion of individuals determined presumptively eligible by the hospital who go on to submit a full application
  
- Proportion of individuals who are ultimately determined eligible for Medicaid based on the full application

# Thank you!

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For more information, please contact CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

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