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Policy Memo

KHPA POLICY NO: 2009-08-01	From: Jeanine Schieferecke
Date: August 20, 2009	KFMAM Reference: 2320 KEESM Reference: N/A
RE: Continuous Eligibility for Medicaid Newborns	Program(s): All Medical

This memo implements new provisions applicable to babies born to Medicaid recipient mothers. These changes are mandated by the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA). These policies are effective immediately and shall be applicable for all newborns processed on or after issuance of this memo.

A. Policy Summary

All newborns born to a mother receiving Kansas Medicaid are continuously eligible through the month the baby turns age one. Previously, the baby was required to reside with the mother to preserve continuous eligibility. Continuous eligibility provisions continue to apply to newborns born to a mother who is a Medicaid recipient under most categories (e.g. MP, SI, FC, MA CM, MS HC, etc.) as per KFMAM 2320.

B. Request for Coverage

The requirement that the request for coverage must come from a caretaker is eliminated. Report of the birth of the newborn can be accepted from the family, hospital, Managed Care Organization (MCO), through claims submitted to the MMIS or other reliable source. Upon notification of the child's name, date of birth and gender, Medicaid coverage shall be established for the month of birth and continue through the month the child turns one. If the child's name, date of birth and gender are not provided and cannot be obtained from the caretaker, coverage only for the month of birth shall be established. If the identifying information is later obtained prior to the month following the child's first birthday, the coverage can then be established for the entire continuous eligibility period.

C. Residence of the Newborn

The newborn maintains continuous eligibility, even when not residing with the mother. However, the newborn must be living with a caretaker per KFMAM 2110 in order to continue to qualify. If the newborn is no longer residing with the mother, the child shall be removed from the mother's case. The child may be added to a new plan per KFMAM 2340, if applicable. If a new caretaker has not requested coverage for the newborn, eligibility must be terminated, providing timely and adequate notice. Kansas residency must be maintained to remain eligible.

D. Conclusion

Because these instructions are issued prior to the next scheduled update of the Kansas Family Medical Assistance Manual (KFMAM), the changes in this memo override KFMAM 2320. KFMAM will be updated in a future revision.

If you have any questions about the material included in this memo, please contact:

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Questions regarding any KAECSES issues are directed to the SRS Business Help Desk at helpdeskbusiness@srs.ks.gov.