



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: #09-41

Effective Date: June 1, 2009

Issuance Date: June 1, 2009

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF
HEALTH OFFICERS, LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA
JILL SPECTOR, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DHMH/OES**

**RE: PROCEDURAL CHANGES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN IN THE X02
COVERAGE GROUP**

PROGRAM AFFECTED: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF ELIGIBILITY SERVICES

SUMMARY:

Currently, an illegal or ineligible pregnant immigrant who applies for Medical Assistance (MA) at the Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) or Local Health Department (LHD) is denied eligibility, and must reapply for MA (X02 coverage group) **after** the birth of a child. Due to an increase in the number of incidents of ineligible or illegal pregnant women who fail to reapply for MA after giving birth, the provider community has requested that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) review its current procedures for this population.

Effective June 1, 2009, an ineligible or illegal pregnant immigrant will be able to apply and be determined eligible for MA in the X02 coverage group at the LDSS or LHD **before** the birth of the child. However, there has been no change in policy regarding covered services. An illegal or ineligible woman will be eligible for MA coverage of **labor and delivery services only**. If determined eligible for MA, she will receive a letter, but no card will be issued.

ACTION REQUIRED:

- The ineligible or illegal pregnant immigrant can now file an application with the LDSS or LHD **prior** to the birth of a child;
- The technical and financial eligibility requirements under the X02 coverage group

have not changed. The case manager will continue to determine eligibility using current guidelines;

- To allow for pregnancies that extend past the Expected Date of Confinement (EDC) the certification period will end 2 months after the EDC;
- When a determination of eligibility is completed, the manual letter OES 002 (Labor and Delivery Emergency Medical Services) will be sent to the applicant informing them of their eligibility;
- A customer who is eligible for coverage of labor and delivery services under the X02 coverage group does not receive automatic coverage for any other medical emergencies.
- If the customer is eligible for coverage of labor and delivery services under the X02 coverage group and has a medical emergency other than labor and delivery, the case manager must, as usual, submit documentation of the emergency to the Office of Eligibility Services (OES) for consideration.
- If a medical emergency other than labor and delivery occurs up to and including the redet end date for an ineligible or illegal pregnant immigrant, no new application for eligibility in the X02 category is required.

CARES PROCEDURES:

If the customer is eligible the case manager will enter a certification end date on the **MAFI** screen. The certification end date is entered in the “redet end date” field on the **MAFI** screen. The date to be entered is the EDC date plus 2 months.

Example: If EDC date is 4.4.09 then “Redet End Date” on the MAFI screen will be 06.09

Attachments:

OES 002	Labor and Delivery Emergency Medical Services	(English)
OES 002	Labor and Delivery Emergency Medical Services	(Spanish)

INQUIRIES:

Please direct Medical Assistance policy questions the DHMH Division of Eligibility Policy at 410-767-1463 or 1-800-492-5231 (select option 2 and request extension 1463).

cc: DHR Executive Staff
DHMH Executive Staff
FIA Management Staff
DHMH Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk