



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

**Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

**Control Number: 10- 31
Replaces AT 10-09**

Effective Date: Immediately

Issuance Date: May 21, 2010

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

**FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA
DEBBIE RUPPERT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DHMH/OES**

**RE: ACCELERATED CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY (ACE) - LDSS AND
LHD PROCEDURES FOR PRIORITIZING AND ACCELERATING THE
MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY PROCESS FOR PREGNANT WOMEN
APPLYING TO MEDICAID**

PROGRAM AFFECTED: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF ELIGIBILITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND

This Action Transmittal supersedes AT 10-09 issued October 30, 2009 effective December 1, 2009. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Department of Human Resources (DHR) have revised the October 30, 2009 instruction to "ACE all pregnant applicants" to recommend a processing alternative that results in quick final determinations of eligibility for pregnant women, and to clarify that ACE must be used only to give accelerated eligibility to pregnant women whose applications have insufficient information to allow an immediate final determination of eligibility. Adding the alternative of immediate MA enrollment further advances the Governor's initiative to decrease infant mortality, and supports Secretary Brenda Donald's statement of core business processes for local departments of social services to process Medical Assistance applications for pregnant women the same day. The procedures set forth in the ACE Manual attached to AT 10-09 are otherwise unchanged.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

The requirement is to determine Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women as quickly as possible. First, if the case worker has all the information and documentation required to make a final determination on the day the pregnant woman applies, the eligibility determination must be made that day or within 10 days. Now that citizenship can be verified on SVES, meeting that requirement should no longer delay determinations (see AT 10-27 Confirming Citizenship using SVES).

If there is insufficient information to make a final determination, the case manager must ACE the application for 90-day eligibility. Pend the case in CARES, complete the ACE worksheet and forward the worksheet to DREP so that eligibility is temporarily established in MMIS. Then, collect the information needed and make a final determination for MA eligibility within 30 days.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct Medical Assistance policy questions the DHMH Division of Eligibility Policy or MCHP policy questions to the MCHP Division, both at 410-767-1463 or 1-800-492-5231 (select option 2 and request extension 1463), and CARES questions to Debbie Simon at 410-238-1363.

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