



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Attorney General

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MEMORANDUM

TO: BRIAN MCCORMICK
Director, DMAS Policy Division
Department of Medical Assistance Services

FROM: JENNIFER L. GOBBLE
Assistant Attorney General

DATE: December 1, 2014

SUBJECT: Emergency Regulations - FAMIS Eligibility for Children of State Employees

I have reviewed the attached emergency regulations that, subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, would amend DMAS's current regulations by removing the exclusion of children of state employees from FAMIS eligibility.

Based on my review, it is this Office's view that the Director of the Department of Medical Assistance Services ("DMAS"), acting on behalf of the Board of Medical Assistance Services pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 32.1-324 and 32.1-351, has the authority to promulgate these regulations, subject to compliance with the provisions of Article 2 of the Virginia Administrative Process Act ("APA"), and has not exceeded that authority.

The authority for this emergency action is found in Virginia Code § 2.2-4011(A), which provides that regulations that an agency finds are necessitated by an emergency situation may be adopted by an agency upon consultation with the Attorney General, which approval shall be granted only after the agency has submitted a request stating in writing the nature of the emergency, and the necessity for such action shall be at the sole discretion of the Governor. The Department's statement of the nature of the emergency and necessity for such action is set forth in the "Agency Background Document." The Agency Background Document also indicates that the Department submitted a written request to the Governor stating the nature of such emergency.

Pursuant to § 2.2-4012, the attached emergency regulations shall become effective upon approval by the Governor and filing with the Registrar of Regulations. In addition, the emergency regulations shall be effective for no more than 18 months. If the Department intends to continue regulating the subject matter governed by these emergency regulations beyond 18

months, it will be necessary to replace these emergency regulations with regulations duly promulgated under Article 2 of the APA. A Notice of Intended Regulatory Action relating to the proposed replacement regulations must be filed with the Registrar within 60 days of the effective date of the emergency regulations. The proposed regulations must be filed with the Registrar within 180 days after the effective date of the emergency regulations. Va. Code § 2.2-4011(C).

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at 786-4905.

cc: Kim F. Piner
Senior Assistant Attorney General

Emergency Text

Action:

FAMIS Eligibility for Children of State Employees

Stage: Emergency/NOIRA

Part III

Eligibility Determination and Application Requirements

12VAC30-141-100. Eligibility requirements.

A. This section shall be used to determine eligibility of children for FAMIS.

B. FAMIS shall be in effect statewide.

C. Eligible children must:

1. Be determined ineligible for Medicaid by a local department of social services or be screened by the FAMIS central processing unit and determined not Medicaid likely;

2. Be under 19 years of age;

3. Be residents of the Commonwealth;

4. Be either U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals or qualified noncitizens;

5. Be uninsured, that is, not have comprehensive health insurance coverage; and

~~6. Not be a member of a family eligible for subsidized dependent coverage, as defined in 42 CFR 457.310(c)(1)(ii) under any Virginia state employee health insurance plan on the basis of the family member's employment with a state agency; and~~

~~7. Not be an inpatient in an institution for mental diseases (IMD), or an inmate in a public institution that is not a medical facility.~~

D. Income.

1. Screening. All child health insurance applications received at the FAMIS central processing unit must be screened to identify applicants who are potentially eligible for Medicaid. Children screened and found potentially eligible for Medicaid cannot be enrolled in FAMIS until there has been a finding of ineligibility for Medicaid. Children who do not appear to be eligible for Medicaid shall have their eligibility for FAMIS determined. Children determined to be eligible for FAMIS will be enrolled in the FAMIS program. Child health insurance applications received at a local department of social services shall have a full Medicaid eligibility determination completed. Children determined to be ineligible for Medicaid due to excess income will have their eligibility for FAMIS determined. If a child is found to be eligible for FAMIS, the local department of social services will enroll the child in the FAMIS program.

2. Standards. Income standards for FAMIS are based on a comparison of countable income to 200% of the federal poverty level for the family size, as defined in the State Plan for Title XXI as approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Children who have income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, but are ineligible for Medicaid due to excess income, will be income eligible to participate in FAMIS.

3. Grandfathered CMSIP children. Children who were enrolled in the Children's Medical Security Insurance Plan at the time of conversion from CMSIP to FAMIS and whose eligibility determination was based on the requirements of CMSIP shall continue to have their income eligibility determined using the CMSIP income methodology. If their income exceeds the FAMIS standard, income eligibility will be based on countable income using the same income methodologies applied under the Virginia State Plan for Medical Assistance for children as set forth in 12VAC30-40-90. Income that would be excluded when determining Medicaid eligibility will be excluded when determining countable income for the former CMSIP children. Use of the Medicaid income methodologies shall only be applied in determining the financial eligibility of former CMSIP children for FAMIS and for only as long as the children meet the income eligibility requirements for CMSIP. When a former CMSIP child is determined to be ineligible for FAMIS, these former CMSIP income methodologies shall no longer apply and income eligibility will be based on the FAMIS income standards.

4. Spenddown. Deduction of incurred medical expenses from countable income (spenddown) shall not apply in FAMIS. If the family income exceeds the income limits described in this section, the individual shall be ineligible for FAMIS regardless of the amount of any incurred medical expenses.

E. Residency. The requirements for residency, as set forth in 42 CFR 435.403, will be used when determining whether a child is a resident of Virginia for purposes of eligibility for FAMIS. A child who is not emancipated and is temporarily living away from home is considered living with his parents, adult relative caretaker, legal guardian, or person having legal custody if the absence is temporary and the child intends to return to the home when the purpose of the absence (such as education, medical care, rehabilitation, vacation, visit) is completed.

F. U.S. citizen or nationality. Upon signing the declaration of citizenship or nationality required by § 1137(d) of the Social Security Act, the applicant or recipient is required under § 2105(c)(9) to furnish satisfactory documentary evidence of U.S. citizenship or nationality and documentation of personal identity unless citizenship or nationality has been verified by the Commissioner of Social Security or unless otherwise exempt.

G. Qualified noncitizen. The requirements for qualified aliens set out in Public Law 104-193, as amended, and the requirements for noncitizens set out in subdivisions 3 b, c, and e of 12VAC30-40-10 will be used when determining whether a child is a qualified noncitizen for purposes of FAMIS eligibility.

H. Coverage under other health plans.

1. Any child covered under a group health plan or under health insurance coverage, as defined in § 2791 of the Public Health Services Act (42 USC § 300gg-91(a) and (b)(1)), shall not be eligible for FAMIS.

2. No substitution for private insurance.

a. Only uninsured children shall be eligible for FAMIS. A child is not considered to be insured if the health insurance plan covering the child does not have a network of providers in the area where the child resides. Each application for child health insurance shall include an inquiry about health insurance. Each redetermination of eligibility shall also document inquiry about current health insurance.

b. Health insurance does not include Medicare, Medicaid, FAMIS, or insurance for which DMAS paid premiums under Title XIX through the Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program or under Title XXI through the SCHIP premium assistance program.

I. Eligibility of newborns. If a child otherwise eligible for FAMIS is born within the three months prior to the month in which a signed application is received, the eligibility for coverage is effective retroactive to the child's date of birth if the child would have met all eligibility criteria during that time. A child born to a mother who is enrolled in FAMIS, under either the XXI Plan or a related waiver (such as FAMIS MOMS), on the date of the child's birth shall be deemed eligible for FAMIS for one year from birth unless the child is otherwise eligible for Medicaid.

12VAC30-141-120. Children ineligible for FAMIS.

A. If a child is:

1. Eligible for Medicaid, or would be eligible if he applied for Medicaid, he shall be ineligible for coverage under FAMIS. A child found through the screening process to be potentially eligible for Medicaid but who fails to complete the Medicaid application process for any reason, cannot be enrolled in FAMIS;

~~2. A member of a family eligible for coverage under any Virginia state employee health insurance plan, he shall be ineligible for FAMIS;~~

~~3.~~ 2. An inmate of a public institution as defined in 42 CFR 435.1009, he shall be ineligible for FAMIS; or

~~4.~~ 3. An inpatient in an institution for mental disease (IMD) as defined in 42 CFR 435.1010, he shall be ineligible for FAMIS.

B. If a child's parent or other authorized representative does not meet the requirements of assignment of rights to benefits or requirements of cooperation with the agency in identifying and providing information to assist the Commonwealth in pursuing any liable third party, the child shall be ineligible for FAMIS.

C. If a child, if age 18, or if under age 18, a parent, adult relative caretaker, guardian, or legal custodian obtained benefits for a child or children who would otherwise be ineligible by willfully misrepresenting material facts on the application or failing to report changes, the child or children for whom the application is made shall be ineligible for FAMIS. The child, if age 18, or if under age 18, the parent, adult relative caretaker, guardian, or legal custodian who signed the application shall be liable for repayment of the cost of all benefits issued as the result of the misrepresentation.