Update 2016-3: Foster Care (Revised 12/23/2016)
Former Foster Youth (FFY)

Background

With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) eligibility for the Former Foster Youth (FFY) Medi-Cal (MC) Program is extended until their 26th birthday. This requirement includes youth that have exited federal or state FC from any state in the United States.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) established Aid Code 4M to be used for youth eligible for FFY MC coverage.

The Patient Protection and ACA of 2010 was amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Action of 2010 requires the implementation of the Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) Program (see Update 14-14 “Medi-Cal,” page -1). FFY eligible may be hospitalized and enrolled in the HPE program under Aid Code 4E.

Effective January 21, 2014, CalWIN began interfacing with the California Health Care Eligibility Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS). Prior to October 2015, CalHEERS did not properly identify youth eligible for FFY MC Program.

Changes

The FFY MC program formerly known as the Former Foster Care Children (FFCC) was changed to FFY to use more suitable language to address this population.

The Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) will generate a new worker alert 9068 for counties to move HPE FFY in Aid Code 4E to Aid Code 4M.
When CalHEERS was implemented the following errors occurred:

- FFY were aided in other aid codes (not Aid Code 4M).
- FFY were with no aid code and with Advanced Premiums Tax Credit (APTC),
- FFY were enrolled in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) with premiums,
- Eligible FFY were determined to be ineligible, and
- CalHEERS did not properly interface with CalWIN.

To correct these errors DHCS along with the CalWIN Project provided guidance for the counties. DHCS has provided new Notices Of Action (NOAs) to address the FFY population. Additionally, DHCS has provided data extracts (FFY lists) addressing the above issues. The lists will be sent to the appropriate offices for processing. The “Medi-Cal Request for Information Form” (MC 355) is in the process of being revised to include language pertaining FFY eligibility. CalWIN will be programmed in Release 44 tentatively scheduled for February 16, 2016, to update the **Collect Individual Demographic Detail** Window when a FFY has applied for MC through CalHEERS.

**Note:**
A detail description of the changes and the use of the NOAs are included in the “Medi-Cal Eligibility for Former Foster Youth (FFY) 18 to 26 Years of Age Aid 4M,” page 34-29 and “Extended Medi-Cal Eligibility for Former Foster Youth (FFY) 18 to 26 Years of Age,” page 35-43.

**MC 13**
If no documentation is available about the FFY’s immigration status, the EW must request that the FFY submit a Statement of Citizenship, Alienage, and Immigration Status (MC13) form. The FFY should be put into the FFY program immediately; coverage must not be delayed while completion of the MC 13 is pending. If the youth does not return the form or complete it, it should NOT impact their MC eligibility.

**CalWIN**
When the FFY is included in a mixed household; on CalWORKs or MC with other family members not eligible for the FFY program, the FFY must maintain their Aid Code 4M status.

**Collect Individual Demographic Detail**
The **Collect Individual Demographic Detail** window will have added functionality to include data interfaced from CalHEERS. The field will be grouped with “Previously on Foster Care [Y/N]” group box. Through the CalHEERS interface, the “Verification and State Verification” field will be populated.
**Verification:**

The Verification **Source** will include one of the following:

- California Documents,
- American Indian or Alaska Native Tribal Document,
- Not Received,
- Out of State Documents,
- Questionable, or
- Refused to provide.

**State Verification:**

The State Verification **Source** will include one of the following:

- Electronic and Service Center,
- Electronic Only, or
- Service Center Rep Only.

The EW is required to validate the “Verification” only and update the verification “Source” if necessary. The “State Verification” will be interfaced from CalHEERS and requires no validation.

**NOAs**

The newly developed NOAs for the FFY program are listed below.

- **Important Notice About a Change in Medi-Cal (MC 239 FFY),**
- **Approval Of Eligibility for FFY (MC 239 FFY -1),**
- **Conditional Approval of Eligibility for FFY (MC 239 FFY-2),**
- **Automatic Renewal of Eligibility for FFY Medi-Cal Program (MC 239 FFY-3), and**
- **Notice of Continuing in Medi-Cal Coverage through FFY Medi-Cal Program (FFY-4).**

**Implementation**

This information provided in this update is effective immediately except for the programming changes for CalWIN scheduled with Release 44.

**Documentation**

EWs that approve, renew, change and update MC coverage for FFY must use one of the new NOAs provided by the state and document CalWIN Case Comments summarizing their eligibility or ineligibility. EWs must use the data extract to determine the youth’s eligibility or ineligibility for FFY MC.

**Other Programs**

This update also applies to the CalWORKs and MC.
Clerical
All clerical staff from all Social Service Agency (SSA) offices must properly screen youth to determine their eligibility for the FFY MC program. For detail refer to Update 2014-2 “Foster Care,” page -1 Medi-Cal Eligibility for Former Foster Care Children (FFCC).

Supervisors
This update must be reviewed with the intake and continuing EW staff at their next unit meeting.

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