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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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Transmittal No: 92 LCM-62

Date: April 10, 1992

Division: Income Maintenance

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: One-Year MA Extension for Infants

ATTACHMENTS: None

Districts were notified in GIS message 91MA042 (October 3, 1991) that the period of guaranteed medical assistance (MA) eligibility for infants is extended to one year. This memorandum reminds districts that the one-year MA extension applies to infants in public assistance (PA) households.

Effective October 1, 1991, an infant born to a mother who is eligible for and in receipt of MA on the date of the child's birth, remains eligible for MA until the end of the month of his or her first birthday, provided that the child remains in the mother's household. The child retains one year of MA eligibility regardless of whether the mother meets financial and procedural requirements for her own MA eligibility beyond her 60-day post partum coverage.

An infant whose mother is receiving PA when the infant is born is automatically eligible for MA coverage until the end of the month of his or her first birthday, if the infant and mother continue to reside together. For most PA case closings, the PA worker extends the household's MA coverage for at least one month and the MA worker determines their continued MA eligibility, including an infant's one-year eligibility. If, however, a PA case which includes an infant under age one year is closed and the household's MA coverage is not extended, the PA worker should open an MA-only case for the infant only. The infant's MA coverage should be authorized through the end of the month in which the infant turns age one year.

Example A woman receives ADC for herself and her son, age four months. She was in receipt of PA when her son was born. The mother fails to recertify for PA. The PA worker closes the PA case and opens a MA-only case for the child only, authorized through the end of the month of the child's first birthday.

It is especially important that an unborn be added to a PA case prior to birth so that the child has MA coverage and the worker does not overlook the infant's MA coverage when the PA case is closed. Documentation and verification of the infant's birth are not required to extend the MA case.

The Division of Medical Assistance is preparing an Administrative Directive regarding the one-year MA extension for infants. Public Assistance questions may be directed to Carolyn Karins, Bureau of Income Support Programs, 1-800-342-3715, extension 4-9343 (OA USERID AV1900).

Oscar R. Best, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Income Maintenance