GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment & Economic Supports

March 8, 2011

TO: Local District Commissioners, TA Directors and Food Stamp Directors

FROM: Russell Sykes, Deputy Commissioner Center for Employment & Economic Supports

SUBJECT: Temporary Assistance and Food Stamp Implications of the Changes to Medicaid Citizenship Documentation Requirements

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

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The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to inform local districts of the Temporary Assistance and Food Stamp Implications of the federal changes to Medicaid citizenship documentation requirements.

On October 15, 2010 the Office of Health Insurance Programs released 10 OHIP/ADM 8 Children Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA): Citizenship Document Requirements. This directive explained the provisions included in Section 211 of CHIPRA that modified the citizenship documentation requirements for Medicaid. These provisions include:

1. Providing a reasonable opportunity for individuals declaring to be United States (U.S.) citizens to present satisfactory documentation of citizenship or nationality;
2. Providing for a data match with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to verify citizenship for individuals enrolled in Medicaid;
3. Excluding children who are eligible for Medicaid as “deemed newborns” from citizenship documentation requirements; and
4. Accepting Tribal enrollment or membership documents issued by a federally recognized Tribe as “primary” verification of citizenship and identity.

Prior to the CHIPA modifications to Medicaid documentation requirements, the Medicaid statue as amended by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 required all U.S. citizens applying or renewing Medicaid coverage to provide satisfactory documentary evidence of their citizenship prior to enrollment. Birth certificates used as proof of U.S. citizenship for MA eligibility purposes must be an original or certified copy.

With the release of 10 OHIP/ADM-8, districts will now authorize Medicaid coverage for otherwise eligible individuals who declare to be U.S. citizens when the only missing documentation is verification of citizenship and identity. The Department of Health will now primarily utilize a new electronic data match with the Social Security Administration to verify individuals U.S. citizenship and identity for Medicaid eligibility purposes. Individuals whose citizenship cannot be verified through the use of the SSA data match will be provided MA coverage pending either a referral to Vital Records for birth information or an opportunity to provide acceptable documentation of their U.S. citizenship to the district.

Birth Verification (Indicator (BVI) – Data Match with SSA

The weekend of October 30, 2010, Medicaid recipients with SSNs that have been validated through WMS and have declared to be U.S. citizens began having their citizenship status verified by SSA data. The match process produces a response from SSA, which will be displayed on WMS in a new

field labeled Birth Verification Indicator (Screen 3 on Upstate WMS, LDSS-3517 item, 366 NYC WMS). The details on the BVI values that are generated through the match process are found in 10 OHIP/ADM-8.

Districts received their first WINR 9135 (Citizenship Verification) Report on November 1, 2010. The WINR 9135 is a new report that will list TA and MA cases with individuals whose citizenship was not verified through the SSA match.

The data match with SSA is only for the verification of U.S. citizenship and is not used to verify qualified or non-qualified alien status.

Temporary Assistance (TA) Implications

The SSA data match is not an acceptable method to document U.S. citizenship for TA eligibility purposes. TA rules require the verification of U.S. citizenship or satisfactory immigration status prior to issuing benefits as part of the TA eligibility process prior to issuing benefits. Documents that are acceptable proof of U.S. citizenship or satisfactory immigration are found on the LDSS-2462. Birth certificates used as proof of U.S. citizenship for TA eligibility purposes must be an original or certified copy.

Certified copies of birth certificates are the type that can be used for legal purposes Non-certified copies of birth certificates are for information purposes only.

A certified copy of a birth certificate has a registrar's raised, embossed, impressed or multicolored seal, the registrar's signature, and the date the certificate was filed with the registrar's office, which must be within 1 year of the person's date of birth.

TA workers must enter BVI value 3 (Validated by Worker) when provided the original or certified copies of the following documents as proof of U.S. citizenship for TA eligibility purposes:

- U.S. Birth Certificate in conjunction with a separate identity document
- U.S. Passport or Passport Card
- Certificate of Naturalization (N-600)
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (N-560) or (N-561)
- New York State Enhanced Driver's license of non-driver ID
- Native American Tribal Document (issued by federally recognized tribe)

If the BVI is blank, the case will be sent to SSA for citizenship verification. For purposes of continuing Medicaid benefits on the TA case, any inconsistencies resulting from the match must be resolved and the appropriate action taken in accordance with the instructions in 10 OHIP/ADM-8.

The citizen match will not be used for emergency assistance cases (Case Types 18 & 19) or HEAP cases (Case Type 60).

HEAP Implications

The citizen match will not be used for emergency or regular HEAP cases (Case Type 60).

Food Stamp Implications

The citizen match will not be used for Food Stamp cases (Case Types 31 and 32).