

Medicaid Coverage of Prenatal Care for Pregnant Women

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

For many years Nebraska's Medicaid program covered prenatal care for the unborn children of pregnant women regardless of a woman's immigration status. Unfortunately, on March 1, 2010 many unborn children of pregnant women lost prenatal care Medicaid coverage. The "Questions & Answers" below address some of the important issues relating to Medicaid access for pregnant women.

If I had Medicaid coverage for my unborn child but lost coverage what should I do?

- The first thing to do is talk with your doctor about your situation. Some hospitals and doctors may continue to provide prenatal care even without Medicaid coverage.
- If you go into labor go to the hospital.

Will Medicaid cover the birth of my baby?

Yes, as long as you meet the other requirements to be eligible for Medicaid, like income level. Immigration status does not matter for emergency Medicaid services, like child birth. But, you still must meet all of the other Medicaid requirements to get Medicaid coverage. So, Medicaid will cover the costs of birth for people who are eligible for Medicaid, regardless of immigration status. To get Medicaid, you must apply for coverage.

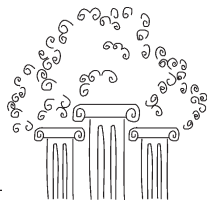
How do I get Medicaid coverage for child birth?

- After your baby is born you must apply for Medicaid coverage. In most cases the hospital you go to will help you apply, but in any event you must apply, even if it is on your own
- You can apply online at <http://accessnebraska.ne.gov/>, or you can go to a local office.
- In the application you do not need to provide a social security number or other proof of immigration status. If you can, it is a good idea to put on the application that you are applying for emergency Medicaid for the birth of a child.

Once my baby is born, will the baby be able to get Medicaid?

- Yes. Children that are born in the United States are U.S. citizens, even if their parents are not. The immigration status of a parent or caretaker for a child does not matter.
- This means a baby will be eligible for Medicaid or Kids Connection if you meet the income/resource requirements.

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How will the baby get Medicaid coverage?

- If you have your baby at a hospital and get emergency Medicaid coverage for the birth, the child is automatically eligible for Medicaid/Kids Connection for one year.
- So, this means if you apply for Medicaid to cover the labor and delivery you should not need to do a separate application for the child. But, to make sure your baby child gets covered, you should fill out a separate application for your child.

What if I lost prenatal care through Medicaid but I think it was incorrect?

Medicaid is available to certain immigrants. The following persons are eligible:

- Lawful Permanent Residents;
- Refugees, persons granted asylum, or withholding of deportation/removal, and conditional entrants;
- Persons granted parole by the Department of Homeland Security for a period of at least one year;
- Cuban and Haitian entrants;
- Certain abused/battered immigrants, their children, and or their parents;
- Certain victims of human trafficking.

If you are one of the types of immigrants listed here and you lost care based on immigration status, you should 1) talk to your caseworker and see if they can fix the problem, 2) file an appeal and 3) reapply for Medicaid.

How do I appeal?

- Your caseworker is required to provide you with an appeal form. You can also get the form from the front desk at your local HHS office.
- But, you do not have to use the appeal form, you can simply write down the decision that was made and why you think it is wrong.
- You can drop the form off or put it in the mail. If you drop off the form, be sure whomever you give it to signs and dates the form and gives you a copy of it. If you mail the form, be sure to contact your local office to get the address and the appropriate person's name.

When do I file an appeal?

You have 90 days from the date of the notice that you are losing Medicaid benefits to file an appeal.

For more information, please contact Nebraska Appleseed at 800.845.3746.
