

Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Fact Sheet

On July 5, 2013, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released Part 2 of the Medicaid Final Rule regulations to implement various provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The regulation packet provided final regulations on the implementation of the hospital presumptive eligibility (PE) program established by the ACA at Section 435.1110.

Specifically, Part 2 of the Medicaid Final Rule regulations states that the hospital PE program be implemented as follows:

- Requires Alabama Medicaid benefits during a presumptive period to individuals who are determined by a qualified hospital, on the basis of preliminary information, to be presumptive eligible for Medicaid benefits for certain mandatory coverage groups.
- “Qualified Hospital” is defined as a hospital that participates as a provider under the State plan or demonstration under section 1115 of the ACA and notifies Alabama Medicaid of its election to make presumptive eligibility determinations through Alabama Medicaid’s Hospital Presumptive eligibility procedure.
- Presumptive eligibility determinations will be made for individuals who show potential eligibility for Alabama Medicaid under the primary ACA groups (children, pregnant women and parent/caretaker relatives).
- The hospital PE program shall be effective upon notification of election by a participating Alabama Medicaid qualified hospital, and State Plan approval by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicaid Services (CMS). The effective date may not be before January 1, 2014.

The Medicaid Final Rule regulations also provide states with options in implementing the hospital PE program. Such options include:

- Limit the presumptive eligibility determinations to determinations for Medicaid programs based on income.
- Establish performance standards for qualified hospitals.
- Establish a process for disqualifying hospitals who do not meet established performance standards.

In order to implement the hospital PE program in accordance with the requirements of Part 2 of the Medicaid Final Rule, Alabama Medicaid is enacting the following:

- Individuals will be required to submit a simplified hospital PE application to receive presumptive eligibility benefits.
- The hospital PE application will be submitted electronically by the qualified hospital. The application will not be available for submittal in a paper format.
- The hospital PE determination will be based on income, household size, citizenship and state residency. The qualified hospital will accept self-attestation of information and will not perform any verification checks of information provided.
- Presumptive eligibility will be granted for up to 60 days. The 60 day period will begin the first day of the month the PE application is approved and will end the last day of the following month. If the individual submits a full Medicaid application during the PE period and is granted Medicaid benefits, the individual will be moved from the PE program to the appropriate Medicaid program.
- After completing the hospital PE application, the individual will be referred to complete a full Medicaid application. The individual will be able to complete the Medicaid application online, via paper, over the phone, and in person at their local Medicaid office.