

**Implementation of the DRA Citizenship and Identity Provisions in Wisconsin
Information Update for IMAC
January 18, 2007**

Goal: Within the confines of federal law, to mitigate any unintended negative consequences that have resulted from the federal DRA requirement to verify US citizenship and/or identity.

1. *Citizenship & Identity “One Stop Shop” on the web*

All citizenship and identity policy related items will soon be available on one web page via a link from the DHFS Eligibility Management (EM) page (<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/em/index.htm>). The web page will contain links to all of the documents issued on this requirement to date including:

- Operations memos (06-32, 06-36, 06-38 and 06-42);
- Affidavit forms;
- Acceptable documentation table;
- Recently Asked Questions (RAQ) document;
- Fact sheet (Proving Citizenship and Identity For Wisconsin Medicaid/BadgerCare/Family Planning Waiver Program);
- Brochure (Proving Citizenship and Identity for Wisconsin Medicaid/BadgerCare/Family Planning Waiver Program); and
- National vital records contact list.

This web page will be accessible to the public and will serve as an easy one-stop-shop for various audiences (e.g. applicants, recipients, advocates and agencies) for access to consistent and comprehensive information about the federal requirement. Additional information related to this topic will be added as soon as it becomes available.

2. *Survey of recipients / applicants denied or terminated due to citizenship/identity*

BEM is conducting a phone survey to better understand the barriers to compliance with citizenship and identity verification requirements. A sample (approx 2- 3%) of persons terminated from or denied MA/BC benefits in October or November 2006 due to citizenship and identity verification will be contacted by phone or mail in January or February. They will be asked about their understanding of the new requirements and their experiences in attempting to comply with the requirements.

Based on the response to survey questions, reviewers will also provide information and encourage reapplication. It is expected that the survey will assist BEM in addressing the decrease in MA/BC enrollment due to this requirement and inform future outreach and education efforts.

3. *Worker-generated letter*

Currently, an automated recipient notice describing the citizenship/identity policy is automatically sent with the review notice. Plans are underway to make a modified version of this letter for applicants available to agency workers; the identity affidavit for children under 16 years old will be included as an attachment.

The letter should be available within the next month. We anticipate future automation of the applicant letter, but in the immediate term wanted to provide workers with an effective method for informing applicants about how to comply with the verification requirements.

4. *New Data Exchange for identity!*

In January, data from the Department of Transportation-Division of Motor Vehicles was acquired to match against CARES. The match will serve to identify those MA/BC recipients who have a driver's license and therefore have met the identity requirement. The match will be conducted in the next few weeks and if it proves to be useful, will be conducted on an ongoing basis.

5. *Documentation Reimbursement*

The Department is working to develop policy and process direction for agencies regarding the payment of documentation to meet the citizenship requirement.

6. *Preliminary findings from targeted quality assurance reviews*

Targeted reviews were recently completed for 300 cases to validate citizenship or identity verification. The purpose of this project was to collect information about whether the data exchange could be replicated, or if the documentation corresponding to the CARES verification code was actually in the agency record. If the data exchange could not be replicated or documentation was not present in the agency file, QA staff attempted to verify the individual's citizenship or identity through another means.

Data exchange

- In 91% of the reviews, the Wisconsin **birth query** was replicated to verify citizenship.
- In 100% of the reviews, the **Medicaid birth claim** was verified in MMIS.

Documentation:

- A copy of a **driver's license** was present in the agency file approximately 60% of the time. QA staff was able to verify identity through another means in an additional 4% of the cases. In approximately 35% of the cases, identity has not yet been verified.
- A copy of the **birth certificate** was present in the agency file in approximately 45% of the cases reviewed. QA staff was able to verify citizenship through another means in an additional 35% of the cases. In approximately 20% of the cases, citizenship has not yet been verified.
- A copy of the **certificate of citizenship or naturalization** was present in the agency file in approximately 6% of the cases reviewed. QA staff was able to verify citizenship through another means in an additional 40% of the cases. In approximately 55% of the cases, citizenship has not yet been verified.

7. Income Augmentation

Funding of approximately \$1.8 million has been sent to CARS. They have 15 days for approval, but it is hoped that approval will occur within the next seven days. Notification of agency allocation amounts has already been sent to Directors.