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**State of Wisconsin  
Governor Jim Doyle**

**TO:** Income Maintenance Supervisors  
Income Maintenance Lead Workers  
Income Maintenance Staff  
W-2 Agencies  
Workforce Development Boards  
Job Center Leads and Managers  
Training Staff  
Child Care Coordinators

**FROM:** Amy Mendel-Clemens, Chief  
Technical Assistance and Training Section  
Bureau of Enrollment Management  
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability

<b>BEM/DFS OPERATIONS MEMO</b>		
<b>No: 09-28</b>		
<b>DATE: 05/01/2009</b>		
<b>FS</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>MA</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>BC+</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>SC</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>CTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FSET</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CC</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>W-2</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>EA</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CF</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JAL</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JC</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>RAP</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>WIA</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/> *
<b>EP</b>		
<b>PRIORITY: HIGH</b>		

**SUBJECT: Continuously Eligible Newborn (CEN) Eligibility**

**CROSS REFERENCE:** BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, Section 8.2

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 2009

**PURPOSE**

This memo announces a change to eligibility requirements for Continuously Eligible Newborns (CENs) resulting from a recent change in federal law.

**BACKGROUND**

President Obama signed into law the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-3) on February 4, 2009. Section 113 (b)(1) of the law removed the requirement for a CEN to remain living with his or her mother in order to remain eligible as a CEN. This change in the law is effective April 1, 2009.

***CURRENT POLICY***

A CEN must be continuously living with his/her natural mother to be eligible and remain eligible as a CEN. If the child moves out of state or ceases to live continuously with the natural mother, the infant loses his/her continuous eligibility and cannot recover it. S/he can become eligible as a child under the regular BC+ rules.

***POLICY CHANGE***

Beginning April 1, 2009, a newborn is no longer required to reside with his/her mother to be eligible as a CEN. This is true even if the newborn is being placed into foster care, adoption or is residing with caretaker relatives. A CEN may only lose his/her continuous eligibility if s/he moves out of state or when s/he turns one year old. A CEN who no longer resides with his/her mother but still resides in Wisconsin should remain eligible as a CEN through the end of the month in which s/he turns one year old.

This policy applies to all newborns currently eligible for CEN status and to any child losing CEN status as of March 31, 2009 due to no longer residing with his/her mother.

If a worker becomes aware of a newborn that lost CEN eligibility prior to March 31, 2009 because s/he was longer residing with his/her mother, the newborn can again be certified as a CEN until s/he turns one year old. The child should be certified as a CEN for any months back to April 1, 2009 in which the child was living in Wisconsin.

***PROCESS***

Because CEN eligibility no longer requires that the child continuously reside with his/her natural mother, the child should retain CEN status for the first year of birth regardless of the current living arrangement as long as the baby is still a Wisconsin resident. In order to correctly follow this policy, it is extremely important that the process outlined below be followed.

***EDS PROCESSING***

When a newborn, not living with his or her mother is reported to EDS by the provider, EDS will continue to manually certify these newborns for CEN eligibility for the first year of birth. In this circumstance, neither EDS nor the IM agency is required to issue a positive notice to the mother.

Because interChange is able to maintain more than one medical status code or eligibility plan for each individual, the CEN eligibility plan certified by EDS for the first year will remain on file even if other agencies such as foster care or adoption assistance re-certify the baby for a different medical status code due to the living arrangement made by those agencies.

***IM AGENCY PROCESSING***

When a newborn is open as a CEN on the mother's case and the worker is made aware that the baby is being removed from the mother's home into foster care, adoption or another living arrangement, deleting the newborn from the mother's CARES case will end the CEN eligibility in interChange. Since the newborn should not lose the CEN eligibility until his/her first birthday,

the following process must be followed to continue the CEN eligibility for the first year, provided that the child continues to reside in Wisconsin:

1. When a change is reported that a CEN is no longer living with his or her mother but is still residing in Wisconsin the worker, must:
  - Delete the baby off the CARES case, run eligibility and confirm the failed BCPB.
  - Wait for the BCPB closure to interface with the interChange system (this normally takes two days).
  - Use the online manual certification or paper F10110 to re-certify the baby manually as a CEN through the baby's first year. The baby's MAID number must be used as the Case Number/Case Head ID and as the MAID number for the baby.
  
2. When the CEN is reported to be living with another relative who is applying as the Caretaker relative for BCPN/BCPL, CARES will determine the BCPL correctly for the child. However if the baby is a CEN eligible newborn, the CEN eligibility medical status code must also remain in interChange for the CEN's first year. In this situation the worker must:
  - Query interChange to see if the CEN medical status code is still on file.
  - If there is not a CEN medical status code on file, the worker will need to manually certify the newborn for the first year as a CEN. The newborn can have more than one medical status code on file during this first year.

**Note:** CARES will be updated in the future to ignore the last question on the Newborn page "Has this child been continuously living with his/her natural mother since birth?" so that BCPB will generate correctly for all newborns regardless of the living arrangement for the CEN's first year of life.

## **CONTACTS**

BEM CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

\*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.

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