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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**

BEM/DFS OPERATIONS MEMO		
No:	09-56	
DATE:	09/28/2009	
FS	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SC	<input type="checkbox"/>	CTS <input type="checkbox"/>
CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2 <input type="checkbox"/>
CF	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAL <input type="checkbox"/>
RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	WIA <input type="checkbox"/>
		BC+ <input type="checkbox"/>
		FSET <input type="checkbox"/>
		EA <input type="checkbox"/>
		JC <input type="checkbox"/>
		Other <input type="checkbox"/> *
		EP
PRIORITY: HIGH		

SUBJECT: Asset Exemption Policy for Children

CROSS REFERENCE: Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 15.1.2 and Chapter 16

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2009

PURPOSE

This memo announces that we will no longer consider assets when determining Medicaid eligibility for disabled or institutionalized children.

BACKGROUND

Currently, the Elderly, Blind or Disabled (EBD) Medicaid eligibility determination for a blind or disabled minor includes an asset test, using the assets owned by the child, as well as assets deemed to the child from his or her parents. (MEH 15.1.2). Blind or disabled minors applying for Long-Term Care programs may also be required to meet an asset test. An 18 year old MAPP applicant must also meet the MAPP asset test to become eligible for that program.

There has been no asset test for children under 19 tested for eligibility under the Family Medicaid, BadgerCare and BadgerCare Plus categories since October 2001.

As part of the ongoing efforts in health care outreach, and in order to obtain additional federal funding, provided through Section 104 of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-3), the Department of Health Services has decided to exempt all children from meeting an asset eligibility test for any category of Medicaid, effective October 1, 2009.

CURRENT POLICY

A blind or disabled minor, who is not eligible for BadgerCare Plus (BCP) or chooses to be tested using the EBD Medicaid rules instead of the BCP rules, must pass an asset test to become eligible. Any assets owned by the child are used in the eligibility determination. Additionally, assets may be deemed from the parents when testing for SSI Related Medicaid. The process for deeming the parents' assets to the disabled minor is outlined in the MEH 15.1.2.

POLICY CHANGE

Beginning October 1, 2009, all children under the age of 19, will no longer have to meet an asset test when determining their financial eligibility for any category of Medicaid, including MAPP. This policy applies to all applicants and recipients.

CARES

Until CARES can be updated to exclude assets when testing eligibility for a child under 19, answer "No" to the availability question on any assets entered in CWW for the child. In cases where the child is being tested for SSI Related Medicaid, also indicate that the assets entered for the parent are unavailable. If the parent is also applying for EBD Medicaid, the assets will have to be entered and the child certified manually.

A report of all children under 19 years of age, included in an open case who are ineligible for any category of Medicaid solely due to excess assets, will be sent to the IM Agencies. The asset pages on these cases should be updated with a 10/2009 effective date to indicate the asset is not available. If the assets must be counted in the eligibility determination for another program of assistance, the child should be manually certified for Medicaid.

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.

DHS/DHCAA/BEM/JL/LA