

16.1 INTRODUCTION

The West Virginia Medicaid Program provides payment for covered medical services to certified medical providers for eligible individuals who are aged, blind or disabled and to eligible members of families with dependent children.

The determination of which medical services are covered under Medicaid and which medical providers are certified to accept Medicaid patients is the responsibility of the Bureau for Medical Services and is not addressed in this Manual. Unless otherwise specified, the coverage group receives all services covered under Medicaid.

For eligibility for nursing care services and HCB, TBI and I/DD Waiver coverage groups, refer to Chapter 17.

This Chapter provides an overview of the Medicaid Program. In addition, each coverage group has specific requirements which must be met and procedures to follow that may not apply to other Income Maintenance programs or other Medicaid coverage groups. These are contained in this Chapter.

Certain programs, such as CDCS, I/DD, TBI and HCB Waiver, require a medical and/or other determination by a community agency or government organization other than DFA and a financial determination by an Income Maintenance Worker. When an applicant's medical eligibility for, or enrollment in these programs is pending, he must not be refused the right to apply, but must be evaluated for any or all DFA programs.

NOTE: Children determined eligible for **Children Under Age 19** Medicaid remain eligible for 12 continuous months, regardless of any changes after approval, except those specified in Section 2.8.

In addition to the coverage groups described in this Chapter which make up the Medicaid Program, the Department has special procedures in place to pay for certain necessary drugs for individuals not eligible for Medicaid. See Chapter 28.

A. ASSIGNMENT OF MEDICAL SUPPORT RIGHTS

Provided they are legally able to do so, all adult Medicaid applicants and recipients must assign to the Department any rights to medical support and to payments for medical care from any third party.

When the adult receives Medicaid under any coverage group, under any case number, the assignment of medical support rights is a condition of eligibility and he must cooperate in identifying and providing information to use in pursuing third parties, unless good cause is established for not cooperating. This includes

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providing accurate health insurance information at application and redetermination. See Section 4.2 for verification requirements. Good cause is determined by DFA, based on written information obtained by the Worker.

NOTE: All other adults who have the legal ability to do so, but who are not Medicaid recipients, must assign medical support rights as well.

When an otherwise eligible individual cannot legally assign his own rights, and the person legally able to do so does not cooperate, the individual remains eligible.

EXAMPLE: A mother refuses to assign benefits for herself and her children, for whom she can legally make an assignment. The mother is ineligible and the children remain eligible for Medicaid.

NOTE: Pregnant Women are not penalized for failure to cooperate with this requirement until the expiration of the postpartum period.

An applicant for SSI is required to assign third-party rights to the Department as part of his application for SSI. If he refuses to assign these rights, he is ineligible for Medicaid.

B. DATA SYSTEM INTERACTION

When health insurance information is entered by BCSE, eRAPIDS alert 191 “Ins. Info. Check OSCAR’S INSU”, is sent to the Worker. Since BCSE and BMS data systems do not interface, the Worker must enter the health insurance information on eRAPIDS which will interface with BMS.

The Bureau for Medical Services must verify health insurance with the carrier before entering it in the BMS data system. The Worker is notified by eRAPIDS alerts when BMS updates Third-Party Liability (TPL) information, there is an insurance carrier or policy number mismatch or the TPL information is not verified. See the eRAPIDS User Guide for specific Worker actions required. If the Worker has any information which conflicts with the BMS-verified information, he must provide the information to the Third-Party Liability (TPL) Unit by e-mail or fax so that BMS can clear up any discrepancy. This insures accurate information is entered in both data systems.

C. CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE WHEN MEDICAID COVERAGE ENDS

All Medicaid recipients who so request, must be issued a Certificate of Coverage DFA-HIP-1, when Medicaid benefits stop.

This applies to all individuals whose Medicaid benefits stopped on or after July 1, 1996. See Section 2.1.

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D. CHILD SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Federal law mandates that efforts be made to locate absent parents, establish paternity and obtain medical support for dependent children who receive Medicaid. **Enrollment into Medicaid coverage must not be delayed for an otherwise eligible individual pending cooperation with BCSE.**

The **legally** responsible adult included in any Medicaid coverage group must cooperate with BCSE.

EXCEPTION: Recipients of TM cannot lose eligibility for failure to cooperate with BCSE. However, BCSE services must be explained and a voluntary referral made when appropriate.

When the responsible adult is not a Medicaid recipient under any coverage group, he must be informed of the availability of BCSE services and provided the opportunity to voluntarily receive services. Voluntary BCSE referrals do not sign the DFA-AP-1. There is no penalty when a voluntary referral subsequently fails to cooperate with BCSE.

The major responsibility for this effort rests with the Bureau for Child Support Enforcement (BCSE) through its staff of Legal Assistants.

In addition, the Worker has the following responsibilities:

- When the responsible adult who can legally assign rights and is not a Medicaid recipient expresses an interest in voluntarily receiving services, provide a BCSE application, the App-1-interactive and an explanation of where the application is submitted, For a child only case, no referral is made by the Worker and no change is made in the data system.
- To explain the right to claim good cause for refusal to cooperate
- To refer appropriate cases to the Legal Assistant. Referral is accomplished by data system exchange or DHS-1.
- To evaluate evidence presented if the client claims good cause
- To determine if good cause for failure to cooperate with BCSE exists

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- To apply the penalty for refusal, without good cause, to cooperate or provide information about medical support to adults included in any Medicaid AG who can legally assign support rights.

- To respond to eRAPIDS alert 191. See Section 16.1 for the required action.

**DUE TO THE DELETION
OF SOME MANUAL MATERIAL
PAGES 5 - 6
HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE.**

1. BCSE Referrals

Referrals to the Bureau for Child Support Enforcement (BCSE) are automated in eRAPIDS. Clients who claim good cause are not required to cooperate with BCSE, but a referral is made. APNC in eRAPIDS indicates good cause. Refer to the eRAPIDS User Guide.

A referral to BCSE must be made when one or both parents is absent, with the following exceptions:

- The specific absence reason is due to court-ordered public service or other absences.
- The child in any coverage group is age 18 or over. BCSE cannot establish an order for these individuals, but can enforce an existing order, without a referral. This individual is coded in eRAPIDS with the absence reason code CO.
- The mother is a Medicaid recipient who is pregnant or receiving Medicaid during the 2-month postpartum period. The newborn child is coded in eRAPIDS with the absence reason code OT. The code is changed to the appropriate absence code when the postpartum period ends.
- The adult who can legally assign medical support rights is not a Medicaid recipient. The child is coded in eRAPIDS with the absence reason code CO. When the individual expresses an interest in voluntarily receiving BCSE services, he is given a BCSE application, the App-1-interactive and an explanation of where it is submitted. No change is made to the CO code.

2. BCSE CASE CLOSURE OF MEDICAID

BCSE closes a case after referral for reasons such as, but not limited to, the following:

- The non-custodial parental rights and responsibilities are terminated and no arrears are owed
- The non-custodial parent or alleged father is deceased and no further action, including a levy against the estate, can be taken.

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- The non-custodial parental rights and responsibilities are terminated and no arrears are owed
- The non-custodial parent or alleged father is deceased and no further action, including a levy against the estate, can be taken.
- Paternity cannot be established because the alleged father's identity is unknown
- The non-custodial parent's location is unknown and BCSE has been unsuccessful in locating the person after exhausting all efforts.
- The non-custodial parent is a citizen of, and lives in, a foreign country, does not work for the federal government or a company with headquarters or offices in the United States, and has no reachable domestic income or assets; and there is no reciprocity with the other country.
- The non-custodial parent cannot pay support for the duration of the child's minority and the person has no income or assets which can be levied or attached for support for one of the following reasons:
 - The non-custodial parent is incarcerated and there is no chance for parole for the duration of the child's minority; or
 - The non-custodial parent is receiving SSI and there is no income or assets to pay support and a doctor's statement or statement from SSA is provided to state that the non-custodial parent is permanently and totally disabled; or
 - The non-custodial parent has a medically verified permanent and total disability with no evidence of support potential.

When BCSE closes a case for one of the above stated reasons, the BCSE Legal Assistant enters the absence code PX. When this code is entered, information about the absent parent is no longer exchanged with OSCAR. The code cannot be changed by the Worker. The code is retained in eRAPIDS. If the Worker receives information about the absent parent which he believes is pertinent and which may require action by BCSE, he sends a DHS-1 to the Legal Assistant.

3. Good Cause

When the adult responsible for the dependent Medicaid child is also a Medicaid recipient, he is required to cooperate in securing medical support, unless good cause is established.

If the adult who refuses to cooperate asserts that one or more of the factors listed below is the reason for doing so, a good cause claim has been made. A client, who refuses to cooperate and who gives as the reason some factor other than one of those listed below, is considered to have refused to cooperate without claiming good cause.

NOTE: There are some circumstances under which a letter is automatically generated to the absent parent(s) from the BCSE data system (OSCAR) as soon as the case is referred through RAPIDS. Therefore, it is important that the client be given the opportunity to establish good cause for not cooperating prior to the data exchange between RAPIDS and OSCAR. If the case is approved or benefits added to an existing case, prior to verification of the good cause claim, the claim of having good cause that is pending verification, as entered into RAPIDS, will prevent the automatic production of a notice to the absent parent by the OSCAR system.

a. Definition of Good Cause

The client has good cause for refusal to cooperate with BCSE if one of the following conditions exists:

- The child was conceived as the result of incest or forcible rape.
- Legal proceedings for the adoption of the child are pending.
- The client is currently being assisted by the Department or by a licensed private social agency to resolve the issue of whether to keep the child or to relinquish him for adoption and the discussions have not gone on for more than three months.
- The client's cooperation in establishing paternity or securing medical support is reasonably anticipated to result in:

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- Physical or emotional harm to the child for whom medical support is being sought; or
- Physical or emotional harm to the parent or other responsible adult with whom the child lives, which would reduce such person's capacity to care for the child adequately. A finding of good cause for emotional harm may only be based upon evidence of an emotional impairment that substantially affects the parent or other relative's functioning.

In determining good cause based in whole or in part upon the anticipation of emotional harm, the Worker must consider the following:

- The present emotional state of the individual;
- The emotional health history of the individual;
- The intensity and probable duration of the emotional impairment; and
- The extent of involvement of the child in the paternity establishment or medical support activity to be undertaken.

b. When the Client Claims Good Cause for Refusal to Cooperate Prior to BCSE Referral

When a client claims good cause prior to referral, the Worker makes a determination according to the procedure in item 4 below.

If there is evidence to immediately establish good cause, the Worker notifies BCSE at the time of referral that good cause has been established.

NOTE: There are some circumstances under which a letter is automatically generated to the absent parent(s) from the BCSE data system (OSCAR) as soon as the case is referred through RAPIDS. Therefore, it is important that the client be given the opportunity to establish good cause for not cooperating prior to the data exchange between RAPIDS and OSCAR. If the case is approved or benefits added to an existing case, prior to verification of the good cause claim, the claim of having good cause that is pending verification, as entered into RAPIDS, will prevent the automatic production of a notice to the absent parent by the OSCAR system.

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If good cause is not established, the Worker notifies BCSE at the time of referral that good cause was claimed but not established. If BCSE then notifies the Worker that the client has failed to cooperate, the worker sends the notification of sanction.

c. When the Client Claims Good Cause for Refusal to Cooperate After BCSE Referral

A client may claim good cause for refusal to cooperate prior to or after referral to BCSE.

When the client claims good cause after the referral, the Legal Assistant refers the case back to the Worker for a determination of good cause. The Worker enforces the cooperation requirement; however, the Legal Assistant must participate in the good cause determination in an advisory capacity. The Worker must give the Legal Assistant an opportunity to review and comment on the good cause investigation and the decision. The Worker must consider the recommendation of the Legal Assistant in making the final decision.

The procedure to determine good cause is as follows:

- Form DFA-AP-1a, Notice to Individual Who Has Claimed Good Cause for Refusal to Cooperate in Child Support Activities, must be completed by the Worker during a face-to-face contact with the client who signed or was interviewed about the DFA-AP-1.

The Worker must be sure the client understands the information on Form DFA-AP-1a. Two original forms must be completed and signed by the Worker and the client. One original is given to the client and the other filed in the case record.

- The client has the primary responsibility for obtaining the verification needed to establish good cause. Refer to Chapter 4. The client must provide the verification within 20 days of the date good cause is claimed.

In certain situations, it is acceptable to make a determination of good cause without verification. These situations are:

- The claim of good cause is based on the anticipation that cooperation will result in physical harm; and

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- The Worker believes, from the information provided by the client, that:
 - The claim is credible without corroborative evidence; or
 - Corroborative evidence is not available; and
 - The Worker and Supervisor agree that good cause exists.
 - The Worker must determine if good cause exists within 45 days of the date good cause is claimed.
 - If good cause is established, the case is not acted on by BCSE. However, at each redetermination, the Worker must determine if good cause still exists. If good cause no longer exists the Worker must notify the client and take appropriate action to notify BCSE.
 - If good cause is not established, the Worker initiates the penalty and sends appropriate client notification. eRAPIDS notifies BCSE that good cause was claimed, but not established, and that the penalty for refusal to cooperate has been applied.
4. Redirection Of Support And Income Withholding

NOTE: While there is no penalty for Medicaid recipients who refuse to redirect support payments, they must be instructed that being referred to BCSE automatically triggers income withholding, whenever there is an existing court order for support and an identifiable source of income.

When a Medicaid referral is made to BCSE, the Legal Assistant immediately implements income withholding for any child support the child may be receiving, whenever possible. This action may not be declined or terminated by the Medicaid client. Collection of support must, thereafter, be made through BCSE and distributed as non-public assistance (NPA) payments.

If the client refuses to cooperate in the establishment of paternity and in obtaining medical support, the Legal Assistant notifies the Worker. If the client has not claimed good cause, or if a claim is made and good cause is not determined, the penalty in Penalties For Failure To Cooperate below is applied.

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If the client refuses to cooperate in the establishment of paternity and in obtaining medical support, the Legal Assistant notifies the Worker. If the client has not claimed good cause, or if a claim is made and good cause is not determined, the penalty in Penalties For Failure To Cooperate below is applied.

5. Penalties For Failure To Cooperate

NOTE: A pregnant woman, who fails to cooperate in securing medical support for children other than the unborn child, is not penalized until after the expiration of the 60-day postpartum period. Recipients of TM cannot lose eligibility for failure to cooperate with BCSE. However, BCSE services must be explained and a voluntary referral made when appropriate.

The penalty is as follows:

The parent, other caretaker or responsible adult who failed to cooperate with BCSE is ineligible for Medicaid. The penalty is applied whether or not the adult and child receive Medicaid under the same coverage group.

The penalty continues until cooperation occurs. The individual becomes eligible for Medicaid the month following the month of cooperation.

In general, when a minor parent (mp) receives Medicaid as an adult, the Major Parent(s) (MP) is not required to cooperate in securing medical support for the minor parent. However, when the mp receives Medicaid as a dependent child and the MP fails to cooperate without good cause, the MP is excluded. See Chapter 9 to determine when the minor parent is included as an adult and as a dependent child.

An mp who receives Medicaid must always cooperate for the mp's child(ren) who receives Medicaid or be ineligible, unless good cause exists. This applies whether the mp is included as a child or an adult. An MP, or other caretaker who receives Medicaid, must cooperate as follows, based on the status of the mp, or be ineligible, unless good cause exists. It is possible for both the MP and the mp to become ineligible for Medicaid.

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BCSE COOPERATION REQUIREMENTS INVOLVING MINOR PARENTS

When Medicaid status is:	mp, non-Medicaid	mp receives as Dependent Child	mp Receives as Dependent Child	mp Is Non-Caretaker Parent
	mp's Child Receives Medicaid	mp's Child Receives Medicaid	mp's Child non-Medicaid	
The cooperation requirements are:	MP, other caretaker or responsible adult, must cooperate for absent parent of mp's child, as required by BCSE. <u>EXAMPLE:</u> MP knows the whereabouts of child's father and refuses to reveal it.	MP, other caretaker or responsible adult, must cooperate for absent parent of mp and mp's siblings, if any; and MP and mp must cooperate for absent parent of mp's child, as required by BCSE.	MP, other caretaker or responsible adult, must cooperate for absent parent of mp and mp's siblings, if any.	MP, other caretaker or responsible adult, must cooperate for absent parent of mp's child, as required by BCSE. Minor parent must also cooperate.

6. Communication Between The Worker And The Legal Assistant

Communication between the Worker and the Legal Assistant continues until the case is closed, the child whose parent(s) is absent is removed from the benefit group.

The Worker must notify the Legal Assistant, in writing, of the following:

- A good cause determination is being made and the Legal Assistant's comments and recommendations are being requested prior to a final decision.
- The client has requested a Fair Hearing as the result of the Department's finding that good cause for non-cooperation is not established.
- Should the Worker become aware of information which could help the Legal Assistant in establishing paternity and/or obtaining medical support, this information must be shared.

The Legal Assistant must notify the Worker, in writing, of the following:

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- The client refuses to cooperate in BCSE activities related to establishing paternity and/or obtaining medical support and the reason for the refusal.
- Information which affects eligibility or the amount of the payment.
- Change of address.
- Paternity is established.
- Information regarding a change in the deprivation factor or cause of absence, if applicable, is secured.
- Cooperation in establishing paternity and/or obtaining medical support after a penalty for non-cooperation is established.

When health insurance information is entered by BCSE, an interface between OSCAR and eRAPIDS occurs and eRAPIDS alert 191 is sent to the Worker.

Changes in case circumstances are automatically referred to BCSE through eRAPIDS.

E. HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM PAYMENT (HIPP)

This program is to assist Medicaid-eligible individuals who cannot afford available employer group health coverage. The Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) pays health insurance premiums, along with deductibles and co-payments, for Medicaid-eligible individuals when the policy is determined cost effective.

This program can also assist recently unemployed individuals with COBRA benefits available from a former employer. Under COBRA provisions, most employers are required to offer continued health benefits for 60 days after employment is terminated. Once an individual chooses to continue benefits, the benefits can be renewed for the next 18 months. Individuals are covered for services not included in the insurance policy, but covered under Medicaid. To qualify, there must be group health insurance available which covers at least 1 person who is Medicaid-eligible in West Virginia.

The application for HIPP may be completed online or printed at www.wvrecovery.com. The individual may also call HMS at (304) 342-1604 to request an application or to obtain additional information about program requirements and the eligibility determination process.