

Presumptive Eligibility

The new buzzword at the Mississippi Division of Medicaid is Presumptive Eligibility. Presumptive Eligibility (PE) means short-term Medicaid coverage for children up to 19 years of age and pregnant women for 60 days maximum. The target groups for PE Medicaid are children up to age 19 in families with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and pregnant women at 185% of the federal poverty level.

Presumptive Eligibility will be determined by designated PE providers that include the Mississippi Department of Health, Federally Qualified Health Clinics and Disproportionate-share Hospitals. Once an applicant is determined eligible for PE Medicaid, the applicant has immediate access to full Medicaid benefits for 60 days maximum. A child or pregnant woman can be determined eligible once during a calendar year.

The Division of Medicaid stresses that any designated PE provider must complete PE certification training to become an authorized PE provider. But this is the option of the PE provider. The Division of Medicaid will provide the training, tentatively scheduled to begin in May.

Ms. Maria Morris, CHIP Administrator with the Division of Medicaid states, 'Presumptive Eligibility is something that has been talked about for a long time. We are happy to help make it a reality. @