

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

10/14/10

DIVISION: Office of Health Insurance Programs

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GIS 10 MA/021

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Judith Arnold, Director
Division of Coverage and Enrollment

SUBJECT: Puerto Rico Extends Validity of Birth Certificates

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Local District Support Unit
Upstate (518)474-8887 NYC (212)417-4500

ATTACHMENT I - Instruction Sheet
ATTACHMENT II - Birth Certificate Application Form (RD-255) English
ATTACHMENT III - Birth Certificate Application Form (RD-225) Spanish

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to provide local departments of social services (LDSS) with the most recent update on the validity of Puerto Rican birth certificates and how it affects Medicaid eligibility. Puerto Rico is allowing one additional month for Puerto Rican born individuals to use their original birth certificates before their documents are no longer recognized. Puerto Rican born individuals now have until October 30, 2010, to obtain a new birth certificate. The deadline was September 30, 2010.

With the release of this GIS message, the interim procedures described in GIS 10 MA/017 are no longer applicable for processing Medicaid applications received on or after October 1, 2010, or for Medicaid separate determinations for Temporary Assistance/Medicaid applications filed on or after October 1, 2010. With the implementation of the Social Security Administration's (SSA's) citizenship match (October 18, 2010 migration), individuals, including Puerto Rican born individuals, declaring to be United States citizens, who present a valid Social Security Number (SSN), will have their citizenship and identity verified by the new SSA citizenship data match process. Further information will be issued regarding the match process, including how the results of the match will be reported to LDSS.

UNDERCARE

The LDSS does not have to re-certify or re-determine eligibility for Puerto Rican born individuals who presented their original birth certificate or certified copy of their birth certificate (issued prior to July 1, 2010), and applied for or received benefits prior to October 30, 2010. Once an individual's citizenship is documented, it should not be re-documented unless that individual's citizenship becomes questionable.

LDSS ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING A NEW PUERTO RICAN BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Upon request, LDSS should provide the attachments to this GIS message to Puerto Rican born applicants. The attachments include instructions for applying for a new birth certificate and the required application forms in English and Spanish.

An individual born in Puerto Rico may obtain his/her own birth certificate as long as he/she is 18 years of age or older. Other persons may also obtain copies of an individual's Puerto Rican birth certificate if they are the individual's parent, legal guardian or a person duly authorized by the courts.