TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors  
FROM: Judith Arnold, Director  
Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration  
SUBJECT: Medicaid Eligibility for Pregnant Minors  
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014  
CONTACT PERSON: Local District Support Unit  
Upstate (518) 474-8887  
NYC (212) 417-4500

The purpose of this Office of Health Insurance Programs General Information System (GIS) message is to advise local departments of social services (LDSS) of changes to Medicaid eligibility for pregnant minors.

Prior to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, parental income was disregarded for pregnant minors. Income disregards are no longer allowed under the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodology. Therefore, in order to continue the practice of not counting parental income, the Department requested an amendment to the Medicaid State Plan to include a reasonable classification for pregnant individuals under the age of 21, which does not require a determination of income for this category.

The Department received approval of the State Plan Amendment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to authorize Medicaid benefits to pregnant minors without an income test. A pregnant minor is identified as a female under the age of 21 who states she is pregnant.

All other policies, procedures and coding for pregnant women remain in effect for pregnant minors.