



## Department of Human Assistance

### Suspension of Medical Support Enforcement Requirement

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PROGRAM(S)	<b>MA</b>
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### Purpose

The purpose of this alert is to inform staff of a temporary Medical Support Enforcement waiver to assist in case processing during the Continuous Coverage Unwinding Period and of its extension.

In order to protect beneficiaries from inappropriate terminations and reduce staff burden during the Continuous Coverage Unwinding Period, the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) requested and received temporary approval to suspend the requirement to apply for unconditionally available income.

This temporary flexibility is effective as of September 15, 2023, and will remain in effect through **December 31, 2024**.

**NOTE:** This waiver applies to both new applicants and current beneficiaries.

## Suspension of Requirement to Apply for Unconditionally Available Income

### Overview Of Temporary Policy

The Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual (MEPM) Article 23 details the requirement and process of medical support enforcement. Additionally, updates to medical support enforcement policy because of the Affordable Care Act are described in the updated [Medical Support](#) program document.

As a condition of eligibility, Medi-Cal applicants and beneficiaries are required to cooperate with establishing the identity of a child's parent(s) and obtain medical support, when available, using the CW 2.1 form used for child support and medical support enforcement for various public assistance programs. This policy allows for cooperation within 30 days of approval of benefits after application or an eligibility redetermination. If this requirement is not met, the member may risk discontinuance.

This waiver authority allows counties to suspend, as a condition of Medi-Cal eligibility, the requirement of the Medi-Cal applicant or beneficiary to cooperate with the medical support enforcement process. County staff are not required to screen if individuals meet the criteria to complete the CW 2.1 form or any other part of the medical support enforcement process throughout the unwinding period. Additionally, individuals that have not cooperated with the process prior to the issuance of this alert are not required to be discontinued throughout the unwinding period.

This waiver will assist in temporarily reducing the workload for Human Services Specialist who otherwise must follow up with applicants or beneficiaries to confirm they have applied for other benefits, thereby simplifying the eligibility determination, and minimizing procedural terminations for individuals who are eligible if not for the requirement to apply for other benefits.

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**Note:** Beneficiaries must not be discontinued for not completing the CW 2.1 form, even if the forms have been generated and mailed.

### Journal

According to standard application or renewal process, county staff must ensure that proper narratives are included within the Journal entry when any of the Continuous Coverage Unwinding waivers are applied to a Medi-Cal applicant, beneficiary or household. County staff must ensure the Journal entry describes what flexibility was applied and for whom.

### Contacts

Supervisors with questions should be directed to the [DHA-Medi-Cal@saccounty.gov](mailto:DHA-Medi-Cal@saccounty.gov) mailbox.