

TennCare for newborns without a SSN

Navigating the process for TennCare for newborns without a Social Security number can be confusing and a bit complicated. We would like to be a resource for you in that process!

When completing a removal of a newborn, it is important the worker check with the Child Welfare Benefits Counselor (CWBC) for assistance.

Did you know that the CWBC staff cannot authorize TennCare for a newborn without one of the following?

1. Proof that the SSN has been applied for (SS-5)

Within about two days AFTER the CWB authorizes TennCare for a newborn with an application for an SSN (SS-5), the TennCare system issues the temporary ID number and the CWB Team can provide it to staff for TennCare use only. That temporary number should never be entered in TFACTS or used for any purpose other than TennCare.

2. The SSN (verified)

Some newborns get TennCare automatically in the "deemed newborn" category of assistance if the mother had TennCare at the time of birth. If the mother did not have TennCare, the baby will not have TennCare until the CWB is able to authorize.

Newborns who are unnamed (for example 'Baby Girl') at birth cannot be approved for TennCare until they are named, and the SSN has been applied for or received in their name.

The following information is needed for the newborn's CWB application:

1. URGENT - Proof from the hospital that the SSN was applied for (so that CWB can authorize TennCare)
2. Mother's copy of baby's birth certificate from the hospital
3. [TennCare Immediate eligibility form](#) with temporary TennCare ID number on it in place of child's SSN. Within about two days AFTER the CWB authorizes TennCare for a newborn with an application for an SSN (SS-5), the TennCare system issues the temporary ID number and the CWB Team can provide it to staff when it issues. (The Health Advocate Representative may not have the temporary number when the fax the form, It will come later after the form is processed).

It is important the TennCare Immediate Eligibility form is faxed to TennCare with this temporary TennCare ID number to designate him/her as a DCS custody child. Ensure the form is fully complete and has the Health Advocate Representative's information at the top of the form.

Note:

- ◆ If a youth needs medical/dental services while TennCare authorization is still pending, first inform the provider of the situation and ask if they will hold billing until TennCare authorization is complete;
- ◆ If that is not an option, staff may utilize [CS-0533, Health Services Authorization for Non-TennCare Eligible form](#) for procurement of services until TennCare is authorized. It is important to check "Other" for "Reason for Utilization" and provide a detailed explanation as to efforts made to obtain TennCare coverage. If this section is left blank, or unclear, it will not be processed for payment.