

Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The following FAQs address the Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) program within TennCare.

For general information about TennCare eligibility policy, visit <http://www.tn.gov/tenncare/topic/eligibility-policy>.

Specific questions regarding the policies and procedures of the Hospital PE process may be directed to HospitalPE.TennCare@tn.gov.

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Overview of Hospital PE

1. What is Hospital PE?

The Hospital PE process allows qualified hospitals to assist applicants in applying for a period of temporary TennCare eligibility. Qualified hospitals use the TennCare Access Portal to submit presumptive applications for temporary coverage. Qualified hospitals also help all applicants for Hospital PE complete the application for full, ongoing TennCare eligibility beyond the **temporary** eligibility segment. Using the Hospital PE process, qualifying applicants may be eligible for immediate coverage before completing the regular TennCare application process.

Note: If Hospital PE enrollees do not submit a **complete** TennCare Application after they apply for Hospital PE, they will lose their temporary eligibility.

2. On what day will the Hospital PE period begin?

If approved, the applicant's effective date for Hospital PE is the date on which the qualified hospital determined the applicant's Hospital PE eligibility through the TennCare Access Portal. To ensure that an entire hospital stay is covered for an eligible patient, a hospital may want to provide application assistance and complete the Hospital PE process as soon as possible after admitting the patient.

For reference, the effective date for Hospital PE is determined by federal rules. See 42 CFR § 435.1101 (stating that the presumptive period "...begins on the date on which a qualified entity determines that a child is presumptively eligible....").

3. If a hospital employee is unavailable at night or on a weekend to make a Hospital PE determination, can the hospital “back date” the effective date for Hospital PE?

No. However, an individual who wants to apply at a time during which hospital employees are unavailable to complete a Hospital PE application can instead apply for full ongoing coverage online at www.tennconnect.tn.gov, by calling 855-259-0701 or by mail or fax using a paper application. You can request a paper application by calling TennCare Connect at the phone number above or you can download one at www.tn.gov/tenncare.

4. How long does the Hospital PE period last?

If the applicant applies for TennCare Medicaid online at www.tennconnect.tn.gov, by calling 855-259-0701, or by mail or fax using a paper application by the end of the month following the HPE approval, then the applicant will remain eligible for Hospital PE until a formal TennCare Medicaid eligibility determination. If the applicant is determined ineligible during the Hospital PE period, the Hospital PE will end as of the date the individual is denied TennCare Medicaid. If the applicant does not apply by the end of the following month, then the applicant’s Hospital PE eligibility period will end on the last day of the month following approval.

For example, Sandi applies for herself and her daughter through the Hospital PE process on December 1st. If she completes a full TennCare Medicaid application by January 31st, then their Hospital PE periods will continue until a formal decision is made about her ongoing eligibility. If Sandi does not apply by January 31st, then her temporary eligibility will end on January 31st.

If Hospital PE enrollees do not submit a **complete** application after they apply for Hospital PE, they will lose their temporary eligibility.

Technical notes: If TennCare approves a Hospital PE enrollee for ongoing CoverKids eligibility, we will enroll the individual in CoverKids immediately (even if this occurs before the end of the HPE period).

5. Does the family need to also apply for TennCare for the applicant using the regular process?

Yes. If Hospital PE enrollees do not submit a **complete** TennCare Application after they apply for Hospital PE, they will lose their temporary eligibility.

Applicants can choose to submit a complete application through the TennCare Access Portal when they apply for Hospital PE. If the applicant does not wish to apply at the time they are determined eligible for Hospital PE, the applicant can apply online at www.tennconnect.tn.gov, by calling 855-259-0701 or by mail or fax using a paper application. You can request a paper application by calling TennCare Connect at the phone number above or you can download one at www.tn.gov/tenncare.

6. How does Hospital PE differ from other types of presumptive eligibility?

Hospital PE only applies to the following individuals:

- a) Children (younger than age 19);
- b) Pregnant women;
- c) Parents or caretaker relatives of dependent children; and
- d) Former foster care children up to age 26.



Breast and Cervical Cancer PE is determined by cancer detection and treatment providers through the Department of Health or certain primary care clinics.

“Deemed” newborns are children born to mothers who are eligible for, and receiving, TennCare Medicaid at the time of birth. Newborns born to mothers currently enrolled in TennCare can be reported using the TennCare Access Portal, online at www.tennconnect.tn.gov, by calling 855-259-0701, or by mail or fax using a paper application. You can request a paper application by calling TennCare Connect at the phone number above or you can download one at www.tn.gov/tenncare.

Applicants Who Can Enroll via Hospital PE

7. Can residents of other states enroll in TennCare through Hospital PE?

No. For this reason, the TennCare Access Portal asks if the applicant lives in Tennessee.

8. Can undocumented immigrants enroll in Hospital PE?

No. Only U.S. citizens and eligible immigrants can enroll via Hospital PE. For this reason, the TennCare Access Portal asks whether the applicant is a U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant.

9. Does the applicant need to attest to being a U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant status?

Yes. Please note that newborns born in the U.S. are automatically U.S. citizens and should answer “yes” to this question. For more information about which immigrants are eligible for TennCare, see the table below.

Answer “YES” to having eligible immigration status if applicant is a:	Answer “No” if applicant is a:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) (i.e., person with a green card) who has been in that qualifying non-citizen status for 5 years or more or who entered the U.S. prior to August 22, 1996; • LPR who previously had a one of the Humanitarian immigrant statuses listed below; • Abused immigrant with a VAWA petition* who has held qualifying status for 5 years or more; • Immigrant paroled into the U.S. for at least one year who has been in the U.S. for 5 years or more; • Immigrant granted conditional entry prior to 4/1/1980; • Immigrant who is a veteran or active duty military (or spouse, un-remarried surviving spouse, or child of such an immigrant)**; or • Humanitarian immigrant who has been in that humanitarian status for less than 7 years, which includes***: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugees and asylees; • Amerasian immigrants; • Cuban or Haitian entrants; • Iraqi or Afghan special status immigrants; • Victims of a severe form of trafficking (with a “T” visa)****; and • Immigrants whose deportation is being withheld. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undocumented immigrant; • Lawful permanent resident who has been an LPR. for <u>less than</u> 5 years and who is neither a veteran nor a humanitarian immigrant; • Abused immigrant with a VAWA petition* who has held qualifying status for less than 5 years; • Immigrant paroled into the U.S. for at least one year and who has been in the U.S. for less than 5 years; • Non-immigrant or non-resident alien (temporary residents); or • Other type of immigrant not listed in the column to the left. <p><i>Note: An unborn child may still be eligible for CoverKids if a pregnant woman answers “No” here. See the footnote to FAQ #58.</i></p>

*An abused immigrant with a VAWA petition, his child(ren), and his parent(s) are subject to a five-year waiting period from the date they received the qualifying status.

**In order for an immigrant veteran/active duty military member to qualify for Medicaid, she must be in any qualified alien status, including an LPR. Qualified alien veterans/active duty military members are eligible without a 5-year waiting period.

*** Any humanitarian immigrant who subsequently becomes an LPR is not subject to a 5-year waiting period or the 7-year limit.

****7 year eligibility limit begins from the date the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) certification or eligibility letter is issued

10. Are all eligibility groups in TennCare eligible to enroll in Hospital PE?

No. To enroll in Hospital PE in Tennessee, an applicant must fall into one of several TennCare Medicaid eligibility categories:

- Children (younger than age 19) who fall within the TennCare income range;
- Pregnant women who fall within the TennCare income range;
- Parents or caretaker relatives of dependent children who fall within the TennCare income range; and
- Former foster care children up to age 26.

For this reason, the TennCare Access Portal asks questions to determine if an applicant fits into any of these eligibility groups.

11. What is “Former Foster Care”?

An individual who is under age 26 and had been in foster care and receiving TennCare Medicaid at age 18.

12. What is “Parent/Caretaker Relative”?

A parent/caretaker relative is an individual related to a child (by blood, adoption, or marriage) who lives with the child and has primary responsibility for the child’s care. The child in question must be under 18 (or age 18 if the child is a full-time student).

13. Can an applicant qualify for more than one eligibility group?

Yes, an applicant may qualify for more than one eligibility group. If this occurs, the TennCare Access Portal will enroll the applicant in the category with the highest coverage.

14. Can childless adult males enroll in Hospital PE?

Not usually. Such individuals typically would not qualify for one of the Medicaid eligibility groups that can enroll in Hospital PE. Unless the childless adult male is currently under age 26 and was in foster care (and TennCare) at age 18, then the childless adult male would not qualify for Hospital PE. For this reason, most childless adult males cannot enroll in Hospital PE.

15. Can an individual needing long-term services and supports enroll in TennCare through Hospital PE?

No. Individuals needing Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) can apply online at www.tennconnect.tn.gov, by calling 855-259-0701, or by mail, or by fax using a paper application. You can request a paper application by calling TennCare Connect at the phone number above or you can download one at www.tn.gov/tenncare.

16. Does Hospital PE have an income limit?

Yes, though the income limits vary by eligibility group. The income limit for each eligibility group is based on a percentage of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL). The income limit for the Caretaker Relative category is set by Tennessee’s State Medicaid Plan. More information about TennCare’s FPLs can be found here: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents/eligibilityrefguide.pdf>

17. Does Hospital PE have an asset or resource limit?

No. Hospital PE applies only to eligibility groups that do not have an asset or resource test.

18. Can a person already enrolled in TennCare use the Hospital PE process?

No. The Hospital PE process is for individuals who are **not** currently enrolled in TennCare at the time of application. If an individual is currently enrolled in TennCare, the TennCare Access Portal will prevent the submission of an application for the individual already enrolled in TennCare.

An individual in TennCare Online Services is enrolled in TennCare if he has an open eligibility span with benefit plan Title 19 Medicaid, Immediate Eligibility, Presumptive Eligibility, Supplemental Security Income, or TennCare Standard. If any other benefit plan displays, then the individual is not enrolled in TennCare and is therefore not precluded from eligibility for Hospital PE based on current eligibility status.

19. Can an individual with private health insurance use the Hospital PE process?

Yes. The Hospital PE process is for people who do not have TennCare at the time of application. Individuals with private coverage (e.g., employer-sponsored health insurance) can use the Hospital PE process as long as they do not already have TennCare Medicaid. The fact that an applicant has private insurance does **not** disqualify him from TennCare Medicaid. However, the applicant will need to meet other requirements to enroll in Hospital PE.

20. Can an individual with Medicare use the Hospital PE process?

Yes. The Hospital PE process is for people who do not have TennCare at the time of application. Individuals with Medicare can use the Hospital PE process as long as they do not already have TennCare Medicaid. The fact that an applicant has Medicare does **not** disqualify him from TennCare Medicaid. However, the applicant will need to meet other requirements to enroll in Hospital PE.

21. Can an individual with Medicare apply for the Medicare Savings Program using the Hospital PE process?

No. Individuals with Medicare can apply for the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) online at www.tennconnect.tn.gov, by calling 855-259-0701 or by mail or fax using a paper application. You can request a paper application by calling TennCare Connect at the phone number above or you can download one at www.tn.gov/tenncare.

To get help with the MSP program, visit <http://www.tnmedicarehelp.com/>. For reference, the MSP program helps enrollees pay for their Medicare costs. Some people refer to the MSP program by using the acronyms QMB, SLMB, QI, and QDWI.

22. Can a family with income over 195% FPL enroll a minor child in CoverKids or the TennCare Medically Needy category through the Hospital PE process?

No. If an applicant self-reports monthly household income above the TennCare Medicaid income limit for the applicable eligibility group, then the individual is not eligible for Hospital PE. The applicant can apply online at www.tennconnect.tn.gov, by calling 855-259-0701 or by mail or fax using a paper application. You can request a paper application by calling TennCare Connect at the phone number above or you can download one at www.tn.gov/tenncare.

23. Can a person have more than one Hospital PE period in a two-year span?

No, not unless the individual is pregnant. An individual with a Hospital PE period in the last two calendar years is generally ineligible for Hospital PE. However, there is an exception for pregnant women. Pregnant women can have one Hospital PE period per pregnancy (even if that exceeds one Hospital PE period in the past two calendar years). The TennCare Access Portal will not allow an application to be submitted for an individual who received a Hospital PE period in the last two years unless the applicant is pregnant.

24. How can a hospital tell if an applicant has had a Hospital PE period in the last two years?

The TennCare Access Portal will not allow an application to be submitted for an individual who received Hospital PE in the last two years. However, please note the exception for pregnant women, who may have one period of Hospital PE per pregnancy.

25. Can a hospital “back date” a Hospital PE determination to cover the first day of a patient’s admission?

No, federal rules establish the applicant’s effective date for Hospital PE is the date on which the qualified hospital determined the individual’s Hospital PE eligibility. To ensure the entire hospital stay is covered for an eligible patient, a hospital may want to provide application assistance and complete the Hospital PE process as soon as possible after admitting the patient.

Application Process for Hospital PE

26. Should a hospital request proof of any information on the Hospital PE application?

No. The hospital should rely on the self-reported information on the TennCare Application. The hospital should not attempt to verify the information or request proof.

27. Must all the fields on the TennCare Application be completed?

YES, if the enrollee wants to obtain ongoing coverage. While some fields on the application are technically optional, these fields may be needed to determine eligibility.

28. Must a TennCare Application be submitted when a Hospital PE determination is made?

No. An applicant can submit a TennCare Application after applying for Hospital PE, regardless of whether the hospital approved or denied the applicant. Applicants are given the option to apply for TennCare Medicaid through the TennCare Access Portal after completing the Hospital PE application. If the applicant does not wish to submit a full application through the TennCare Access Portal, the applicant can apply online at www.tennconnect.tn.gov, by calling 855-259-0701 or by mail or fax using a paper application. You can request a paper application by calling TennCare Connect at the phone number above or you can download one at www.tn.gov/tenncare.

Note: If Hospital PE enrollees do not submit a **complete** TennCare Application after they apply for Hospital PE, they will lose their temporary eligibility.

29. Who should be included on the application?

Include the applicant and, if living with the applicant, the following individuals:

- The applicant's spouse;
- The applicant's natural, adopted, and step children under age 19 (or 21 if a full-time student);
- For applicants under age 19 (or 21 if a full-time student): the applicant's natural, adopted, or step parent; and
- For applicants under age 19 (or 21 if a full-time student): the applicant's natural, adopted, and step siblings who are under age 19 (or 21 if a full-time student).

The TennCare Access Portal will determine the correct household size based on the information entered on the application.

30. What income should the applicant include on their application?

The applicant should tell TennCare about all income. This includes the before-tax amounts of wages, salaries, and self-employed income received by adult household members. The applicant should also include unemployment, alimony received, Social Security retirement and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) for household members.

31. What kind of accommodations must I provide to an applicant?

Hospitals must provide oral interpretation services and disability accommodations, as appropriate.

32. If a hospital transmits data for a patient approved for Hospital PE on a Saturday morning, when will the information actually appear in TennCare's eligibility system?

TennCare will update its eligibility system and transmit new enrollment records to the MCOs and the Pharmacy Benefits Manager within 3-5 days of receiving the information from the hospital. For this reason, hospitals should validate eligibility information in TennCare Online Services for all individuals approved for Hospital PE within 3-5 days of transmitting the information.

33. Can an applicant simply get another period of Hospital PE if he forgets to submit the application for ongoing coverage?

No, not generally. An individual can only have one segment of Hospital PE during a two calendar year period. Pregnant Women can have one Hospital PE period per pregnancy even if that exceeds one Hospital PE period in the past two calendar years. Given this rule, it is critical that an individual submit his full application for full ongoing coverage when his Hospital PE application is approved.

34. Can an individual approved for Hospital PE tell you her MCO preference?

Yes, the individual can indicate an MCO preference – and the hospital can input that preference in the TennCare Access Portal. TennCare will do its best to honor this preference. However, TennCare may enroll the individual in a different MCO if, for example, the individual has immediate family members already served in another MCO. If the individual does not indicate an MCO preference, TennCare will randomly assign an MCO to the individual – and the individual will have 30 days to switch to a different MCO if she would like to do so.

35. Can an individual apply for Hospital PE online?

Yes, Hospital PE applications can and should be submitted through the TennCare Access Portal. Only qualified entities may submit applications online through the TennCare Access Portal. However, anyone can apply online at www.tenncareconnect.tn.gov.

Keeping TennCare Coverage

36. Does the family need to also apply for TennCare using the regular process?

Yes. Hospital PE enrollees can keep their temporary TennCare coverage only if they submit a full TennCare Application. TennCare applications can be completed online at www.tenncareconnect.tn.gov, by calling 855-259-0701 or by mail or fax using a paper application. You can request a paper application by calling TennCare Connect at the phone number above or you can download one at www.tn.gov/tenncare.

Note: If Hospital PE enrollees do not submit a **complete** TennCare Application after they apply for Hospital PE, they will lose their temporary eligibility.

37. Is the hospital responsible for submitting the full TennCare Application?

Yes. After completing the Hospital PE application in the TennCare Access Portal, an applicant can choose to submit a full application through the TennCare Access Portal.

If the applicant is ineligible for Hospital PE, as part of the “Hospital PE Qualified Entity Agreement,” hospitals agree to offer either (a) to mail the completed TennCare Application at no charge to the applicant or (b) to help the applicant complete the online application at www.TennCareConnect.tn.gov.

Note: If Hospital PE enrollees do not submit a **complete** TennCare Application after they apply for Hospital PE, they will lose their temporary eligibility. TennCare applications can be completed online at www.tenncareconnect.tn.gov, by calling 855-259-0701 or by mail or fax using a paper application. You can request a paper application by calling TennCare Connect at the phone number above or you can download one at www.tn.gov/tenncare.

38. If an individual approved for Hospital PE doesn't get a final decision about her application for ongoing coverage, could there be a gap between Hospital PE and the date ongoing coverage begins?

No. If the individual submits an application for full ongoing coverage during her Hospital PE period and the application is pended, TennCare will continue the Hospital PE period until a final determination is made on the pending application. For example, Jen applies and is approved for Hospital PE on July 1st, and she also submits her application for full ongoing coverage to TennCare on the same day. TennCare pends her application on July 18th for proof of income and the application remains pended. TennCare will continue Jen's period of Hospital PE until a final decision is made on her pending application for full ongoing coverage.

39. How can an individual approved for Hospital PE access pharmacy benefits immediately after the hospital makes the Hospital PE determination?

TennCare encourages hospital pharmacies to provide at least a partial fill for any prescription medications the individual may need in the 3-5 days during which systems are being electronically updated. Once the individual is approved for presumptive coverage, he can access pharmacy benefits from any network pharmacy while eligible for Hospital PE.

Qualified Entities

40. Will the Hospital PE program become mandatory for hospitals?

No. This is and will remain a voluntary program for hospitals who are interested in participating. Hospitals may elect not to participate—or hospitals may decide to sign up and then later withdraw from the program (with 30 days advance written notice to TennCare). Participation is entirely optional. TennCare’s goal is simply to ensure hospitals have the right information to make an informed choice about whether to participate in the Hospital PE program—and hospitals have the necessary resources and support to be successful if they choose to sign up.

41. Does a hospital employee who determines Hospital PE also need to be a Certified Application Counselor (CAC)?

Not necessarily. If the hospital employee restricts the discussion with clients to TennCare Medicaid or CoverKids matters, they would not need to be CACs. However, the hospital employee may need to be a CAC in order to advise clients about qualified health plans (QHPs), tax credits, or other non-Medicaid insurance matters.

42. Who actually determines eligibility under the Hospital PE process?

The TennCare Access Portal will determine if the individual is eligible for Hospital PE.

43. What types of hospitals can become qualified entities?

To participate, a hospital must:

- Participate in the TennCare Medicaid program and maintain a network provider agreement with at least one TennCare Managed Care Organizations (MCO);
- Be signed up for TennCare Online Services (formerly known as TN Anytime);
- Be located in Tennessee;
- Make determinations consistent with policies and procedures of the state;
- Comply with all training requirements; and
- Comply with all performance standards.

More information is available at <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/providers.html>.

44. Can a qualified hospital use the Hospital PE process for a patient transferred there?

Yes. Qualified entities can use the Hospital PE process even for patients transferred from another facility. However, please ensure that the other facility has not already completed the Hospital PE process for the patient. The TennCare Access Portal will not allow an application to be submitted for

an individual already eligible or who has received Hospital PE within the last two years (except pregnant women).

45. Can TennCare reject or terminate the qualified entity status of hospitals?

Yes. TennCare may take such action if a hospital fails to help applicants complete and submit TennCare Applications, makes fraudulent statements about signature and effective dates, etc. For more information, see the “Hospital PE Qualified Entity Agreement,” which is available at www.tn.gov/tenncare/section/providers.

Transmitting Hospital PE Approvals

46. How does a hospital transmit Hospital PE approvals to the State?

Hospital PE approvals are automatically transmitted to the State through the TennCare Access Portal. Hospitals no longer have to submit approvals through the TennCare Online Services interface. TennCare still **cannot** accept any Hospital PE information that hospitals send by fax, email, or mail.

47. How does a hospital confirm an applicant’s enrollment in Hospital PE?

The TennCare Access Portal will give a real time determination of an individual’s Hospital PE application. Hospitals should validate that all information for individuals approved for Hospital PE appears correctly in TennCare Online Services about 3-5 business days after submission by the hospital. Note: The TennCare Online Services system requires the patient’s SSN in order to perform the eligibility lookup.

Providers have several other options to validate enrollment. First, those providers that use Emdeon, Passport, or similar vendors are often able to look up patients using name and date of birth. Second, providers can look up eligibility for United Healthcare members through either Optum Cloud or their RV e-services website using only the individual’s name and DOB without needing an SSN. Similarly, providers can do a name lookup using the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee portal. AmeriGroup does not allow for name lookups on its portal but allows providers to call its Customer Service Line at 1-800-454-3730 for assistance. Third, TennCare will mail the enrollee’s welcome packet within 3-5 business days of completing the enrollment; the packet confirms eligibility, MCO assignment, and effective date; the MCO will follow with providing member ID cards shortly thereafter.

Pregnancy and Newborns

48. Can a hospital sign up for the Hospital PE program but decide to limit its PE determination to just one population such as children under age 19?

No. Federal guidance expressly requires hospitals participating in the Hospital PE program to make PE determinations for all eligible populations. Thus, a participating hospital must accept Hospital PE applications and make determinations for pregnant women, children under age 19, parent caretaker relatives, and former foster children under age 26. See <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/faq-01-24-14-hospital-pe.pdf>.

49. Can hospitals report “deemed” newborns using the TennCare Access Portal?

Yes. Newborns born to mothers currently enrolled in TennCare can be reported using the TennCare Access Portal. Submit a Hospital PE application, list the child’s mother as the head of household on the application, and include the newborn’s information. When the application is processed by TennCare, the newborn will be added to the mother’s case, and coverage will be effective from the child’s date of birth. Deemed newborns may also be reported online at www.tennconnect.tn.gov, by calling 855-259-0701 or by mail or fax using a paper application. You can request a paper application by calling TennCare Connect at the phone number above or you can download one at www.tn.gov/tenncare.

50. What is the difference between the existing “deeming” process in TennCare and Hospital PE?

If a new mother is already enrolled in TennCare at the time she delivers, TennCare will simply “deem” or add the newborn to the mother’s case and MCO. If instead a new mother is under the TennCare income limit but not enrolled in TennCare at the time that she delivers, TennCare cannot “deem” the infant. In either circumstance, the new mother can sign up her newborn for TennCare through the Hospital PE process.

For example, Sarah is enrolled in TennCare when she gives birth. Sarah can enroll her newborn in TennCare Medicaid using the Hospital PE process. When the application is received by TennCare, Sarah’s baby will be “deemed” eligible as of the date of birth and added to Sarah’s case and MCO. Jane, in contrast, is not enrolled in TennCare when she gives birth even though she is under the TennCare income limit. Jane can enroll her newborn in TennCare Medicaid using the Hospital PE process. The effective date of coverage for Jane and her newborn will be the date the Hospital determines the Hospital PE eligibility.

51. Does this new Hospital PE program change the existing Pregnancy PE process in local health departments?

No. Eligible pregnant women can still go to a county-based health department to apply for presumptive eligibility for TennCare Medicaid in order to cover their prenatal services. As long as a presumptively eligible pregnant woman completes a full TennCare application by the end of the following month, she will keep her TennCare Medicaid coverage at least until TennCare makes a determination based on her application. If TennCare determines her to be eligible under the pregnancy category, she will keep her coverage at least for the remainder of her pregnancy and the 60 day post-partum period. If the mother is enrolled in TennCare Medicaid at the time the baby is born, the baby will be “deemed” eligible for TennCare when the mother reports the birth.

Of course, some applicants will not be eligible for presumptive pregnancy eligibility. These pregnant women may be eligible for CoverKids. They can apply online at www.tennconnect.tn.gov, by calling 855-259-0701 or by mail or fax using a paper application. You can request a paper application by calling TennCare Connect at the phone number above or you can download one at www.tn.gov/tenncare. If the mother has CoverKids at the time that she gives birth, TennCare will determine whether the baby is eligible for TennCare Medicaid or CoverKids and will take the appropriate action to facilitate coverage for the newborn.

52. Can a parent apply through the Hospital PE process if the newborn does not yet have a name?

Hospitals must have a name for the baby in order to submit the application in the TennCare Access Portal.

53. If the parents apply for SSI for the newborn, can they also apply for TennCare using the Hospital PE process?

Yes. Parents may apply for SSI and also use the Hospital PE process to ensure that the newborn has coverage as quickly as possible.

Please remind the parents that, like any other Hospital PE applicant, they must apply for TennCare through the regular process. TennCare applications can be completed online at www.tennconnect.tn.gov, by calling 855-259-0701 or by mail or fax using a paper application. You can request a paper application by calling TennCare Connect at the phone number above or you can download one at www.tn.gov/tenncare.

This is especially important if the newborn's SSI application remains pending. Even though SSI, if approved, is retroactive to the date of application, there could be a coverage gap if the parents do not apply for TennCare while the SSI application is pending.

Record Keeping

54. Must a hospital keep hard or electronic copies of each applicant's Hospital PE materials?

Yes. As part of the "Hospital PE Qualified Entity Agreement," hospitals agree to maintain a paper record or electronic record of the following documents for each applicant:

- Presumptive Eligibility PDF
- Application PDF

Hospitals shall immediately make all such records available to the State upon request.

55. Must a hospital keep records even for persons denied for Hospital PE?

Yes. Hospitals shall keep records for all applicants, regardless of the eligibility outcome.

56. How long must hospitals keep Hospital PE materials for applicants?

Hospitals shall maintain such records for at least seven (7) years.

For general information about TennCare Eligibility policy that's not answered here, visit <http://www.tn.gov/tenncare/policy-guidelines/eligibility-policy.html>