



Department of Health

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TRANSMITTAL: 26 OHIP/ADM-01

TO: Commissioners of Social Services

DIVISION: Office of Health Insurance Programs

DATE: October 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Continuous Eligibility for Children

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION:

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ATTACHMENTS:

- 1: WMS Screen Reference
- 2: Children's Continuous Desk Guide for ACS

FILING REFERENCES

Previous Ref. ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs. Law	Soc. Serv. & Other	Manual Ref	Misc.
13 OHIP/ADM-03	GIS 24 MA/10		SSL 366(4)(b)(3)		
99 OHIP/ADM-03			SSA 1902(e)(12)		

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Office of Health Insurance Programs Administrative Directive (OHIP/ADM) is to inform Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) of a change in policy and procedure regarding continuous eligibility, sometimes referred to as continuous coverage, for children.

II. BACKGROUND

Effective January 1, 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) required all states to provide 12-months of continuous Medicaid enrollment to certain categorically eligible children under the age of 19. New York State has been providing 12-months of continuous eligibility to most Medicaid eligible children since 1999. The Department of Health has been ensuring continuous eligibility has been provided to the additional populations since 2024.

Continuous eligibility allows an individual to remain enrolled in health coverage regardless of changes in income or household size. Providing continuous eligibility to children decreases instances of children losing coverage for procedural reasons and then regaining coverage soon after. The loss of health coverage, even temporarily, can have negative long-term repercussions on mental, physical, and social development. Ensuring continuous enrollment promotes better health outcomes and reduces systemic health disparities throughout the state.

III. PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

Categorically eligible children from birth through the age of 18 are entitled to 12-months of continuous eligibility from their last eligibility determination. Categorically eligible children include all children eligible under the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) category. Most children who are eligible under MAGI are already active on NY State of Health or will be transitioned to NY State of Health where they will receive continuous eligibility. It will continue to be important for children to have accurate coding, enabling their transition to NY State of Health, if appropriate.

In addition to the MAGI population, categorically eligible children include children losing Medicaid on a Temporary Assistance (TA) case, children discharged from Foster Care, and children losing Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility. Certain children will need their Medicaid coverage maintained at their local district during their continuous eligibility period.

Children who are determined fully Medicaid eligible are entitled to continuous eligibility. Any reasonable opportunity period provided for verification of eligibility factors must be resolved, satisfactorily, before the child can be considered fully eligible. If a child's citizenship, immigration status, or Social Security Number (SSN), is unverified, verification is required for them to remain eligible. If verification is not received, the child's coverage must be terminated.

Once entitled to continuous eligibility, there are limited exceptions for terminating coverage as follows:

- The child, or child's representative, requests a voluntary termination;
- The child ceases to be a resident of the state;
- The child is deceased; or
- The agency determines eligibility was erroneously granted at the most recent determination, redetermination, or renewal of eligibility because of agency error, fraud, abuse, or perjury attributed to the child or the child's representative.

The 12-month continuous eligibility provision does not include children who are Medically Needy, including children enrolled in a waiver with or without a household size equal to one, or children with a spenddown. Children who are presumptively eligible are also not entitled to 12-month continuous eligibility.

IV. REQUIRED ACTIONS

A. *Children Losing SSI*

Children who are losing SSI are eligible for 12-months of continuous Medicaid eligibility from their last determination/redetermination date. This population will need to be monitored to ensure a proper 12-month continuous eligibility period is provided. District staff must monitor reports for children under the age of 19, to establish the child's last SSI eligibility date and ensure 12-months of continuous eligibility from that month. Since many of these children are reactivated on SSI within four months, this population should not be transitioned to NY State of Health prior to their recertification due to the high possibility of SSI reactivation. To hold this population at the district, the child's Individual Categorical Code (ICC) should not be changed from either 11 (Blind), or 12 (Disabled).

To find the proper initial 12-months continuous eligibility dates, the worker will need to use the month of the last known SSI related "Auth FROM" date to determine the correct extension for the child and issue the remainder of their 12-month continuous eligibility period. The extension cannot provide less than four months of prospective coverage, to allow the child to be included in the next renewal cycle.

1. Rest of State

District staff must monitor the monthly State Data Exchange (SDX) report. Please follow the steps outlined below to determine the last eligibility date for a child (See attachment 1, image a, for an example of the Welfare Management System (WMS) screen and Medicaid effective Date):

Step 1: To locate the last SSI related "Auth FROM" date in WMS, see steps below:

- i. In WMS, from the Main Menu (WMSMNU)

- ii. Go to Screen 12 – WMS CASE & INDIVIDUAL INQUIRY
- iii. In the WINQ01 (upper) section, enter 'C' for MA Transaction History, hit TAB,
- iv. Then enter the client's Case Number; hit ENTER,
- v. Locate most recent SSI related Auth Period.

Step 2: Determine the new "Auth FROM" date using the directions and examples below, assume the continuous eligibility extension was entered in the same month as the SSI termination transaction date:

- i. To determine the new "Auth FROM" date, use the month of the most recent SSI related "Auth FROM" date.
- ii. The new "Auth FROM" date will always be the first of the month and the FROM date cannot be prospective. If the new "Auth FROM" month is between January and the current month, then new "Auth FROM" year is the current year. If the new "Auth FROM" month is greater than current month, then new "Auth FROM" year is the previous year.

Last known SSI related Auth dates:	11/01/2022-12/31/2049
New Auth Month:	November (11)
SSI termination transaction date:	02/18/2026
New Auth Year:	2025
New "Auth FROM" date	11/01/2025

Last known SSI related Auth dates:	02/01/2024-12/31/2049
New Auth Month:	February (02)
SSI termination transaction date:	04/18/2026
New Auth Year:	2026
New "Auth FROM" date	02/01/2026

Step 3: The new authorization period will be 12 months from the new "Auth FROM" date, as long as there is at least four months of prospective coverage to allow the child to be part of the new renewal cycle. If the new authorization period does not provide at least four months of prospective coverage, an extension must be provided, which should include one month of overlapping coverage in the terminating transaction month and four months of prospective coverage.

Determine the new "Auth TO" date using the examples below:

i. New Authorization Period (full 12-month period):

New "Auth FROM" date:	11/01/2025
SSI termination transaction date:	02/18/2026

New Auth FROM/TO dates (12mo): 11/01/2025-10/31/2026

Rationale: 12 months from the New "Auth FROM" date provides more than four months of prospective coverage. Therefore, coverage is given to the end of the initial 12-month period.

ii. New Authorization period (less than full 12-month period):

New "Auth FROM" date: 04/01/2025
SSI Termination transaction date: 02/18/2026
*New Auth FROM/TO dates: 04/01/2025-03/31/2026

*This initial New Authorization period does not provide a minimum of 4 months of prospective coverage past the SSI termination transaction date. Therefore, an extension must be provided.

New Auth FROM/TO extension date 02/01/2026-06/30/2026

Rationale: 12 months from the New "Auth FROM" date would be 03/31/2026. Since this is NOT more than four months of prospective coverage, a four-month extension is required to ensure the child will be part of the next renewal cycle.

iii. Note for children turning age 19: No extension should be given past the end of the month in which an individual turns age 19, except the minimum four-months so the child can enter a renewal cycle.

Example 1: If an individual turns 19 in the next four months, they may receive up to four months of prospective coverage, so they are part of the next renewal cycle.

Example 2: If an individual is 18 years and 6 months old, and would have eight months left on their initial 12-month continuous eligibility period, coverage would be granted until the end of the month when they turn age 19 (six months, instead of the remainder eight month coverage period).

Step 4: Renewals must be mailed out prior to new end date, during regular renewal cycles and should be treated as outlined in 13 OHIP/ADM-04(IV)(C)(2)(c).

2. New York City

Human Resources Administration (HRA) staff must monitor bi-weekly report WINR1338_SSI Child, located in PHREDs, to identify children who may need to

be re-evaluated and provided their initial 12-months of continuous eligibility. When processing an extension for this population, districts must use the new reason code 644 and opening code Y32 as noted in System Implications below.

Step 1: Locate the last known SSI related coverage FROM date to be used to calculate the proper initial 12-month extension. This will be located on the above report, labeled 'MDCAID-EFF-DT', which was pulled from the MA History, see attachment 1(b).

To manually locate the last known MA History coverage dates, follow directions below:

- i. In WMS, from the Main Menu (NYC ACCESS SELECTION MENU)
- ii. Go to Screen 1 – WMS – HostSystem Menu
- iii. In the HOST SYSTEM MENU – go to '01' Inquiry
- iv. In the WMS Inquiry Menu, go to '2' – Individual Inquiry
- v. In WMS Individual Inquiry Menu, enter '10' then enter the client's CIN, or Social Security Number; hit ENTER,
- vi. Locate last SSI related MA Coverage dates, they will end in 99/99/99.

Note: The worker will need to use the month of the last known SSI related "Auth FROM" date to determine the correct extension for the child and issue the remainder of their 12-month continuous eligibility period. The extension cannot be less than four months of prospective coverage, to allow child to be part of the next renewal cycle. (See attachment 1, image b, for an example of the WMS screen and coverage dates).

Step 2: Determine new authorization FROM and TO dates using examples below, which assumes the continuous eligibility extension was entered in the same month as the SSI termination transaction date.

i. New Authorization Period (full 12-month period):

Last known SSI related Auth dates:	11/01/2022-99/99/99
New "Auth FROM" date:	11/01/2025
SSI termination transaction date:	02/18/2026
New Auth FROM/TO dates (12mo):	11/01/2025-10/31/2026

Rationale: 12 months from the New "Auth FROM" date provides more than four months of prospective coverage. Therefore, coverage is given to the end of the initial 12-months.

ii. New Authorization Period (less than full 12-month period): New authorization and coverage dates must have a minimum of four

months of prospective coverage, to ensure a child can enter the next renewal cycle.

Last known SSI related Auth dates:	04/01/2024-99/99/99
New "Auth FROM" Date:	04/01/2025
SSI termination transaction date:	02/18/2026
*New Auth FROM/TO dates:	04/01/2025-03/31/2026

**This New authorization period does not provide a minimum of 4 months of prospective coverage past the SSI termination transaction date, therefore an extension must be provided.*

New Auth FROM/TO extension dates: 02/01/2026-06/30/2026

Rationale: 12 months from the New "Auth FROM" date would be 03/31/2026. Since this is NOT more than four months of prospective coverage, a four-month extension is required to ensure the child will be part of the next renewal cycle.

iii. Note for children turning age 19: No extension should be given past the end of the month in which an individual turns age 19, except for the minimum of four-month extension so the child will be part of a renewal cycle.

Example 1: If an individual turns 19 in the next four months, they may receive up to four months of coverage, so that they get into a renewal cycle.

Example 2: If an individual is 18 years and 6 months old and would have 8 months left on their initial 12-month continuous eligibility period, coverage would be granted until the end of the month they turn age 19 (six months, instead of eight).

Step 3: Renewals are expected to be mailed out prior to new end date, during renewal cycles and be processed as outlined in 13 OHIP/ADM-04(IV)(C)(2)(c).

B. Children Discharged from Foster Care:

All children under the age of 18 discharged from Foster Care, must be provided 12-months of continuous eligibility from their last known eligibility determination or redetermination date, with a minimum of four months of prospective coverage to allow for the child to be part of the next renewal cycle.

If a child is being discharged home to their family with an active Medicaid the child should be added to the family's case as program rules allow. Individual Category Codes should be updated, if appropriate.

In New York City, the Administration of Child Services (ACS) must monitor cases being closed to ensure all children being discharged from Foster Care are receiving the appropriate remainder of their 12-month continuous eligibility period, calculated from the last eligibility determination or redetermination. ACS can monitor bi-weekly report Continuous MA Coverage for Foster care Children (PRMCONFC-PRP05FFC) as well as their own internal reports to identify these children and ensure all eligible children receive the remainder of their 12-month continuous eligibility period. See attachment 2: ACS Desk Guide for further guidance.

Those who have a final discharge from Foster Care between the ages of 18 and 21 remain eligible as Former Foster Care youth until age 26, provided they were enrolled in Medicaid at time of discharge. For further details on this specific population, see 09 ADM/01 and 13 ADM/03.

C. Children losing Temporary Assistance (with certain non-MAGI ICCs [11 & 12]):

Children up to age 19 who are being discontinued from TA and losing Medicaid on their TA case are entitled to 12- months of continuous eligibility. Most MAGI-eligible children are expected to be processed through the separate determination process and subsequently transitioned to NY State of Health where they will be monitored for the appropriate duration of continuous eligibility. Children with ICCs of 11 or 12 will need to be monitored by the LDSS to ensure they are provided the remainder of their 12-months continuous eligibility period. These children should keep their ICC of 11 or 12 for the remainder of their continuous eligibility period but should have their ICC re-evaluated upon renewal. No extension should be given past the end of the month in which an individual turns age 19, except for when a four-month extension is needed to include the child in the next renewal cycle.

In New York City, HRA staff must monitor weekly report, "Continuous MA Coverage for PA-MA Children" (PRMCONPA-PRP05PPA), to identify children with ICCs of 11 or 12 who may need to be manually provided the remainder of their 12-months continuous eligibility at the district. When processing an extension for this population, use the new reason code 644 and opening code 2Y3 as noted in System Implications section below.

Please follow steps above in (IV)(A)(2), substituting the child's Date of Last Recertification (DLR) for the Medicaid Effective Date, to correctly calculate the correct extension to satisfy the initial 12-months of continuous eligibility.

V. SYSTEM IMPLICATIONS

For districts to continue to provide categorically eligible children with 12-months of continuous eligibility, the following system changes have been implemented:

A. WMS Rest of State (ROS)

- No new codes were created for WMS ROS.

B. WMS New York City

The following changes have been made to support the policy outlined above:

- Reason Codes
 - CNS reason code 644 – ‘Extend MA Coverage for Categorically Eligible Children’ to reflect the proper extension was provided.
- Opening / Undercare Codes
 - 3Y2 – Categorically Eligible Children Continuous Coverage (FC) – for children being discontinued from Foster Care
 - 2Y3 – Categorically Eligible Children Continuous Coverage (TA) – for children being discontinued from TA
 - Y32 – Categorically Eligible Children Continuous Coverage (SSI) – for children being discontinued from SSI
- Notices
 - Y0156 (new notice) Continuous Eligibility for children SSI, FC, Adoption
- Reports
 - PRMCONF-PRP05FFC (new report) – Continuous MA Coverage for Foster Care Children
 - PRMCONPA-PRP05PPA (new report) – Continuous MA Coverage for PA-MA Children
 - WINR1338 (new report) – SSI Child

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

The provisions of this Administrative Directive are effective January 1, 2024.