SSA Intranet

IMMUNIZATIONS

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Effective January 1, 1998, CalWORKs requires that all aided children who are not required to be enrolled in school must have all age appropriate immunizations and provides penalties which reduce the grant if immunization is not verified within the set time frames.

WHO IS AFFECTED?

The requirement for immunizations applies to all children in the Assistance Unit (AU), age 5 and under, unless the child is enrolled in school. This requirement also applies to a Maximum Family Grant (MFG) child.

INFORMING REQUIREMENT

TEMP CW 101 CalWORKs Immunization Rules
TEMP CW 101A Recommended Immunization Schedule
TEMP CW 101 informs applicants and recipients of their obligation to obtain the recommended immunizations for their children age 5 and under. It lists the recommended immunizations, the reasons for exemption from the requirement, and how immunizations may be obtained. TEMP CW 101A outlines the schedule of "Immunizations currently recommended for children under the age of six" and "Recommended immunization schedule for children not immunized in the first year of life". The CalWORKs Immunization Rules and the Recommended Immunization Schedules shall be included in all CalWORKs/Food Stamp Application and Redetermination (RRR) packets.

EXEMPTIONS

There are two situations that exempt a child from the immunization requirement:

1. It is medically determined that immunizations are not appropriate for the child. A physician's written statement must be provided that includes the prohibitive medical condition and duration.

1. The parent/caretaker signs an affidavit that the immunizations are contrary to their beliefs and the reasons for their objection.

VERIFICATION OF IMMUNIZATION

The parent or caretaker must cooperate in verifying each aided child's age appropriate immunizations. Verification will be requested at application and at redetermination, and when adding to the AU a child under the age of 6 and not enrolled in school.
The type of verification can be any of the following:

- The child's Yellow Immunization Record.
- PM 160- CHDP Assessment from the health care provider.
- A statement from a physician that the child's immunizations are up-to-date based on the age of the child.

TIME FRAMES FOR RECEIPT OF VERIFICATION

Verification of immunization must be received within the following time frames:

Applicants

1. New CalWORKs applicants - Within 30 days of approval of Medi-Cal
2. New CalWORKs applicants who are already receiving Medi-Cal – Within 45 days from date of application for CalWORKs.
3. If verification is not received prior to approval, control for its return by setting a User/Case Alert in CalWIN.

NOTE: Approval of application cannot be delayed pending return of the verification of immunization.

Recipients

1. New cases from Initial Services – Prior to transferring the case to Ongoing Services, the Initial Services Worker shall set a case alert for the Ongoing Services Worker to control return of immunization verification if still needed.
2. Reinvestigation (RRR) - Recipients must verify immunization for each aided child within 45 days of the RRR. File a copy of PM 160 or child's yellow immunization record, or statement from physician in the case on Vital Statistics Acco.

READING VERIFICATIONS

How to Read Yellow Immunization Record:

Use TEMP CW101A, "Immunizations currently recommended for children under the age of six", to determine if immunizations for the child are up-to-date.

Workers may use the Immunization Schedule Template which will assist with this determination.

1. Determine the child's current age in months.
2. Start at the top of the card with Polio.
3. Based on child's age, is the required number of shots entered on the Yellow Card?
4. If the child is overdue on a shot series, look at "Dose" and "Recommended at Age" columns.

If more time has elapsed than is recommended, they are out of compliance.

If the child needs additional immunizations, it is important to inform the parents and refer them to their doctor or clinic.

If the child has not completed a series of immunizations because of a spacing requirement between vaccine doses, the applicant/recipient is considered to be making a good faith effort to comply. Good faith effort also applies if the vaccine, is not available. The AU will not be penalized and the immunizations will be reviewed again at the next RRR.

How to Read PM 160- CHDP Assessment:

There are 2 sections under Immunizations:

Given Today –

If the type of immunization is checked in Column A or B, the child meets the requirements.

Not Given Today

Column C – If checked, child is already up to date for their age.

Column D – If checked, immunization requirements are not met and parent must provide further verification.

ADDING A CHILD TO THE AU

Verification of immunization for a child age 5 and under, not enrolled in school, who is added to the AU must be received in accordance with the applicant time frames listed above. Send TEMP CW 101 and TEMP CW 101A and set a User/Case alert date for return of the verification. If adding a newborn, set control for 3 months.

When entering age appropriate immunizations in the Individual Immunization Detail Window, follow the instructions provided in the Immunizations Resource Guide.

FAILURE TO COOPERATE

If the parent fails to cooperate in providing verification, the needs of eligible parent(s)/caretaker will be deducted from the MAP in determining Financial Eligibility and the Aid Payment. In a two-parent AU, the needs of both parents are not considered. The penalized parent(s) remain members of the AU.

GOOD CAUSE

An extension of 30 additional days may be granted for good cause if the verification cannot be provided due to a lack of access to immunization services. Examples: transportation problems, unable to get appointment by deadline, illness of parent/caretaker relative or a child.

The reason for not receiving immunization shall be entered on the Collect Immunization Detail window.

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PENALTIES

Penalties are effective the first of the month following the month that a timely notice of action is sent.
The needs of the parent(s)/caretaker will not be counted in the Family MAP or in the size of the AU for determining MAP to compute the AU's Aid Payment.
EXAMPLES
• Child Only Cases (Parent(s) not in the AU)
No penalty can be applied in these cases because an immunization penalty is only applied to the parent(s)/caretaker(s) in the AU.
• Stepparent in the AU
If the AU includes a stepparent and a penalty is to be applied for not verifying immunization for a stepchild, the biological parent or caretaker relative of the non-immunized child would be penalized. If the biological parent left the home and the stepparent became the caretaker relative, then the penalty would be applied to the stepparent.
• Unmarried couple with a common child
In an AU that includes an unmarried couple with a common child and the mother's separate child, the mother fails to provide immunization verification for her separate child. Only the mother is penalized.
• Senior parent and minor parent
An AU includes a senior parent and a minor parent and minor parent's child. The senior parent is responsible for both the minor parent and the minor parent's child and is therefore responsible for submitting verification of immunization for minor parent's child. Both the senior and minor parent are penalized if it is not provided.

TREATMENT OF INCOME

The non-exempt income of penalized person(s) is counted in the family's grant determination and they remain eligible members of the AU.

FOOD STAMP IMPACT

Food Stamp benefits shall not increase when the parent(s) or caretaker relative is penalized for non-cooperation with Immunization verification requirements. The Maximum Aid Payment differential will be budgeted in Food Stamps.
The penalized individual(s) remains Food Stamp eligible and the Food Stamp Household retains Categorical Eligibility in such situations.

PENALTY COMPUTATION

Example:
A mother with three children is aided but later fails to submit verification of immunization and is not found to have good cause. The mother has total earned income of $525 per month and no disability based unearned income. The AU is nonexempt.
Eligibility/Grant Computation:
$525 Gross Earned Income

-$225 Income Disregard

$300 Nonexempt Earnings

-150 50% Earned Income Disregard

$150 Total Net Nonexempt Income

$694 MAP for three (excluding the parent)

-150 Total Net Nonexempt Income

$544 Potential Grant

$694 MAP for three (excluding the parent)

$544 Aid Payment (Lower of MAP for AU [excluding parent] or Potential Grant).
The penalized parents or caretaker relatives are still part of the AU; however, their needs are not included in MAX AID Family or MAX AID AU.

ADDING PARENT'S NEEDS BACK

If verification is provided after a penalty has been imposed, the needs are added back in effective the first of the month following the month in which verification is received.

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NOTICES OF ACTION

NOA M40-105C (Immunization - Change/Decrease)
NOA M40-105B (Immunization - Change/Increase)

CALWIN ENTRIES

Resource Guide

ATTACHMENTS

TEMP CW 101 (1/99) CalWORKs Immunization Rules.
TEMP CW 101A (1/99) Recommended Immunization Schedules.
Yellow Immunization Record
PM 160- CHDP Assessment
Immunization Schedule Template

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