



## MINOR CONSENT MEDI-CAL

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**Minor Consent Medi-Cal**, also called Sensitive Services, is a program that provides limited services to people under age 21, regardless of their immigration status, without parental consent or notification. Minors' eligibility for services is determined on the basis of minors' income and resources.

### Who is eligible?

- Children of any age under age 21 are covered for services related to pregnancy, family planning, and sexual assault.
- Children ages 12-20 are covered for mental health outpatient care and services related to sexually transmitted diseases.
- Teenagers and youth under 21 living at home with their parents.
- A married teen or youth under the age of 21 living in the home of a parent who is not blind or disabled is considered a child. Therefore the only way these teens can apply for Medi-Cal, on their own, is under this Minor Consent program.
- Teen or youth can qualify for the Minor Consent program even if he or she is already on Medi-Cal as part of his or her parent's case.
- Teens who have their own children, who want regular Medi-Cal, would still be required to have their parents apply on their behalf. The teen parent can apply for their child independently.
- Teens or youth can apply for coverage for one or more sensitive services.

### What services are offered?

- Substance abuse treatment
- Outpatient mental health services
- Family planning, pregnancy, and pregnancy related services
- Abortion
- Sexually transmitted disease diagnosis and treatment
- Sexual assault treatment

### What are the income/resources limits?

- Parent's income is not counted
- Parent's property is not counted
- Minors' income and resources are counted

### What does it cost?

- There is no share of cost with this program-Minors generally qualify regardless of income or property.

- Beneficiaries may not be charged any co-payments or other cost sharing.

### **Does immigration status matter?**

- Citizenship status does not matter
- Undocumented teens and youth should be eligible for Minor Consent services if otherwise eligible.
- Minors do not have to state their citizenship or immigration status for these limited services.

### **Where can teens and youth apply?**

- Department of Public Social Services (DPSS).
- With a County “Outstationed” Eligibility Worker (EW) at community health clinics, County health clinics, health fairs, or other community sites.
- Minor Consent eligible applicants must re-certify their need for services each month with the County.
- Minor Consent applicants get paper Medi-Cal cards for each month they apply.
- Pregnant minors do not have to provide proof of pregnancy.

**NOTE: Important New Rule for Minor Consent Program:** Infants whose mothers are covered by the **Minor Consent Program, Aid Code 7N**, now qualify for “deemed eligibility”. This means that a baby born to a mother on Minor Consent receives continuous Medi-Cal eligibility for the 12 months following birth, with out the mother having to fill out a separate Medi-Cal application. This is a **new** rule: see ACL 04-02, page 4.

### **How do teens or youth get services?**

- Services are provided through Medi-Cal providers.
- Minor Consent recipients must re-apply for services each month with their Eligibility Worker.
- Mental Health Services can be pre-approved for up to six months by providing a letter from a doctor, psychologist, or counselor stating how long treatment will be needed.

### **What if the teens or youth have other health insurance?**

- The teens or youth are still eligible regardless of insurance status.

### **What should be done if there is a problem getting services though the Minor Consent Program?**

- If a minor is having problems obtaining services though the Medi-Cal Minor Consent program, please call Maternal and Child Health Access (MCHA) in Los Angeles at (213) 749-4261 or Health Consumer Center (HCC) at 1(800) 896-3203.