**Policy Clarification**

**Medical Assistance - All**

**PMA-21880-338**

**Submitted: August 16, 2024 Agency: CAOs**

**Subject: Updating Pregnancy Screen to Ensure Medical Assistance (MA) 12-Month Continuous Postpartum Coverage**

**Question: What steps should the County Assistance Office (CAO) take when a child’s birth is reported for an individual open for MA?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Response By: Division of Health Services** | **Date:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

If an individual open for MA reports a birth of a child, the CAO will add the child to the case and enter a pregnancy termination date on the Pregnancy screen of the individual who gave birth. If a pregnancy was not previously reported, the CAO must create a new Pregnancy screen. The pregnancy termination date must match the child’s date of birth.

It is important for the CAO to enter the correct pregnancy termination date on the Pregnancy screen to ensure the parent receives the full 12-month continuous postpartum coverage. The [PA 1961](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/ma/PA_1961.pdf) has been updated for the CAO to review the case for postpartum individuals to prevent incorrect closures.

**Note:** Because pregnant individuals are entitled to the 12-month postpartum coverage regardless of the reason pregnancy ends, the CAO will make sure a Pregnancy screen is entered in the Electronic Client Information System with the correct pregnancy termination date even if the pregnancy did not result in a live birth.

For more information on the continuous postpartum coverage, please refer to [Operations Memoranda 22-06-01](https://pagov.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/DHS-OIM/OpsMemos/Medical%20Assistance%20(MA)%20Postpartum%20Continuous%20Eligibility%20Expansion%20to%2012%20Months.docx?d=w8c773e68fcf84535b30e1eec7cb94068&csf=1&web=1&e=lsaerW).