

**South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Medical Care Advisory Committee
Item for Committee Advise ment**

PREPARED BY: Betty Moses, Lori Risk

PRESENTED BY: Michael Jones, Program Director
Eligibility, Enrollment & Member Services

DATE: July 16, 2013

SUBJECT: Citizenship and Immigration Status

OBJECTIVE: To affirm the state's citizenship regulations, reasonable opportunity options and policy options related to immigrant eligibility.

BACKGROUND: To be eligible for Medicaid, an individual must be a U.S. citizen or national, or an immigrant who is in a qualified immigration status. Medicaid applicants attest to citizenship and immigration status and electronic verifications of the attestation are completed. If the individual's status is not verified electronically, paper documentation is required. During the time period when the discrepancy is being resolved, if an individual otherwise meets the eligibility requirements, the individual is provided Medicaid benefits in accordance with federal regulations for a 90 day reasonable opportunity period. Through the SPA process, the State must affirm compliance with federal regulations on citizenship and specify coverage of any optional groups of lawfully present non-citizens such as children and pregnant women prior to the expiration of a five year waiting period.

BUDGETARY IMPACT: None

EXPECTED OUTCOMES: Compliance with Federal mandate. Clearly defined eligibility standards for citizens and non-citizens. Insurance that eligibility is not delayed because of pending citizenship documentation.

EXTERNAL GROUPS AFFECTED: Medicaid applicants and beneficiaries.

RECOMMENDATION: Amend State Plan with appropriate language and make necessary policy and procedure updates to ensure compliance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013