

**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:** Eligibility Process

**OBJECTIVE:** To implement a single streamlined application with appropriate addendums for Medicaid eligibility and to provide electronic access to the application process. To implement a redetermination process under which Medicaid beneficiaries are not required to provide additional information if sufficient information is available to renew eligibility.

**BACKGROUND:** The Affordable Care Act mandates the use of a single streamlined application for eligibility determination for Medicaid and other insurance affordability programs. Applications, addendums and instructions will be available in electronic and paper form. The state may opt to utilize either the federally developed application or develop an alternative application. States developing their own application must seek federal approval through the SPA process; South Carolina will utilize an alternative application. Additionally, federal mandates require that Medicaid eligibility be renewed annually without requiring additional information from the beneficiary if sufficient reliable information exists to renew eligibility. Through the SPA process the State must also attest to compliance with federal requirements on application and redetermination processing.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:** The use of an electronic point of access to the application process has the potential to save cost on printing and postage with fewer paper applications sent to applicants. However, this also presents the potential for an increased number of applicants and ultimately beneficiaries. It is anticipated that the revised process will be cost neutral.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES:** A single, streamlined application and appropriate addendums will create a more efficient, less burdensome application and enrollment process. Some applicants and beneficiaries applying electronically would be able to obtain real time eligibility decisions. Applicants found Medicaid ineligible will have their information transferred to the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) to access Federal tax credits if they qualify.

**EXTERNAL GROUPS AFFECTED:** All Medicaid applicants and beneficiaries.

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

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2014 (Implemented Oct 1, 2013 for eligibility effective January 1, 2014.)