

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
County Medical Services (CMS) Program Guide**

Program Overview	Number	Page
	01.01	1 of 2

Background

County Medical Services (CMS) is a program for indigent adults. CMS is a program of last resort and only covers certain medical services and is not considered health insurance. CMS does **not** pay insurance premiums, deductibles or co-payments. CMS does **not** meet the Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). CMS is the County's safety net program covering adults who are **NOT**:

- Determined linked to Medi-Cal eligibility
- Enrolled in Medi-Cal
- Enrolled in Medicare
- Enrolled in a Covered California Health Care Plan or in any health care plan that meets the MEC requirement under ACA

San Diego County does not provide direct services. Services are provided by primary care clinics, local hospitals, and physicians that contract with San Diego County to provide medical care.

Policy:

A: Eligibility Categories

CMS

An individual who meets the CMS eligibility criteria and whose family income does not exceed 165% of the annually adjusted Federal Poverty Level (FPL) receives services at zero cost.

CMS Hardship

An individual who meets the CMS eligibility criteria and whose family income is over 165%, up to and including 350% FPL, will be evaluated for CMS Hardship. The individual may be required to meet a Share of Cost (SOC) obligation for each month they receive CMS services. Refer to 06.02 for income limits and 13.03 for CMS Hardship evaluations.

B: Grant of Lien Requirement

As a condition of eligibility, all CMS applicants are required to complete and sign the CMS Lien information form and CMS Grant of Lien form, naming the County of San Diego as grantee to secure any and all real estate property of the applicant as security for repayment of all claims paid by CMS on their behalf. The lien will be filed against any real property that is currently owned or real property that may be acquired in the future. However, the applicant does not need to sell their current principal residence to qualify. Refer to 06.06 for additional information regarding liens.

C: Reimbursement Agreement Requirement

Effective with applications dated on or after 7/1/2008, as a condition of eligibility, CMS Hardship applicants are required to sign the CMS Reimbursement Agreement form. This repayment document requires the CMS applicant to reimburse San Diego County via the Office of Revenue & Recovery (ORR) for CMS services provided. Refer to 06.07 for additional information regarding repayment requirements and procedures.

Impact:

No impact to other program(s).

Reference(s):

None

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
County Medical Services (CMS) Program Guide**

	Number	Page
Program Overview	01.01	2 of 2

Release Date:

December 23, 2014

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by January 1, 2017.