

REVISED

NJ FamilyCare for Inmates **Frequently Asked Questions**

January 2015

When is it appropriate to complete the Inmate Presumptive Eligibility (PE) application on the patient?

The Inmate PE application should be completed once an eligible inmate not already enrolled in NJ FamilyCare is admitted for an acute inpatient hospitalization. The PE Coordinator has 72 hours to complete and submit an Inmate PE application on eligible uninsured inmates. The State does not distinguish between an adjudicated or pre-adjudicated inmate, however, the inmate must be hospitalized, 19 through 64 years old and be a US Citizen or Qualified Immigrant to be eligible.

The Inmate PE application will be completed only on eligible uninsured inmates once they are admitted for an inpatient hospitalization. Existing eligibility must be checked on the Electronic Medicaid Verification system (e-Mevs).

What benefit package is offered to inmates eligible for NJ FamilyCare?

For any inmate matched on the Medicaid file a Special Program Code (inmate indicator) will be added to their Medicaid segment.

Inpatient hospitalization is the only benefit covered while the inmate is incarcerated. The inpatient hospitalization will be covered by Fee-for-Service Medicaid only.

When an inmate is admitted following the Emergency Department Admission and/or an observation area, how long can the inmate be in the hospital before the Inmate PE application is completed?

According to the federal rule, the inmate must be admitted for inpatient hospitalization for the claim to be reimbursable. Outpatient charges are not reimbursable. The PE Coordinator has 72 hours to complete the Inmate PE application.

What happens to an inmate who is a psychiatric patient who is admitted for 24-hour observation? Is this reimbursable?

Inmate PE can be completed by a Certified PE Provider hospital. Inmate PE is not contingent on the diagnosis, but the Inmate must be admitted to a PE provider hospital. The PE hospital has 72 hours to complete and submit the PE application.

An inmate admitted to a Psychiatric Hospital will not be covered by the Inmate PE process.

Can a PE application be completed more than once for an inmate during a 12-month period?

PE eligibility can only be established once per 12-month period. The PE hospitals will complete the PE application on all eligible hospitalized inmates (uninsured, age 19 through age 64, and a US citizen). The PE segment, when established, will last for 60 days. The PE application for the inmate will be simultaneously forwarded to the local County Welfare Agency (CWA) for a full eligibility determination.

The application at the CWA can be processed if all necessary information is obtained.

What happens if a pregnant inmate comes to the hospital to deliver?

Inmate PE could be done on any eligible hospitalized inmate regardless of their diagnoses.

What happens if there is an inmate admission and there is no staff in attendance to complete an Inmate PE?

The PE Coordinator has 72 hours to complete and submit an Inmate PE application. The sending correctional facility should coordinate with the hospital PE coordinator to be sure an Inmate PE application, if necessary, has been completed. The PE hospital will indicate in the Income/Comment section of the application, the date of the inpatient admission. PE can be established back to the date of admission.

Is the PE coverage alone sufficient to cover the hospital bill or does the CWA need to make a full eligibility determination?

The state determination and establishment of PE is sufficient to cover the inpatient hospital bill. However, the CWA should establish full eligibility for the inmate so that the discharged inmate has access to follow-up care. In addition, since PE can only be established once per 12-month period, it is important for full eligibility to be determined

even while the inmate is incarcerated which would cover any subsequent hospitalizations while incarcerated.

If a client is admitted to the hospital in August, but still an inpatient in September, will the PE backdate to the admission date?

Inmate PE should be done within 72 hours of the inmate admission to the hospital. The PE hospital should indicate in the PE application's Income/comment box the date of the admission. PE can be established back to the date of admission.

Is the Inmate hospitalization federally reimbursable if they were admitted before September 1, 2014?

The Inmate PE process began September 1, 2014. However, Medicaid reimbursement for eligible inmate expenses can go back to January 2014 if the correctional facility, working with the hospital, is able to identify the active Medicaid policy number the inmate had at the time of their hospitalization so that the hospital can bill Medicaid for that inpatient hospitalization.

Are there provisions to prevent a financial penalty to the correctional facilities in the event a PE is not initiated within 72 hours of admission?

Inmate Presumptive Eligibility is initiated by the PE certified hospital upon admission of an eligible inmate. The certified hospital has 72 hours to initiate and submit the Inmate PE application alerting the state that an inmate has been hospitalized. The correctional facility and their partnering hospital should work together to be sure Presumptive Eligibility has been submitted timely. Applications submitted after 72 hours will be denied.

Are the CWAs supposed to hold onto the NJ FamilyCare/PE applications until they are notified that the inmate is released from a correctional facility?

The PE application will be done online and will be viewable and identifiable through the CWAs' Administrative Tool as an Inmate PE application. The PE application should be processed even while they are incarcerated. The CWA will need to work with their county jail, or contact at DOC, to obtain any missing information to establish full eligibility.

How will the CWAs be notified that an inmate that was hospitalized during their incarceration is now being released from a correctional facility?

The correctional facility will need to alert the CWA that the inmate is up for release. The CWA should work with their partnering correctional facility to determine who at the correctional facility will notify the CWA. A best practice would be to establish a process on who, when and how the CWA notification will take place so that the NJ FamilyCare application can be processed for full eligibility determination.