

2133 – TEFRA/KATIE BECKETT

POLICY STATEMENT	<p>Katie Beckett is a class of assistance (COA) available to children from birth through the month the child turns age 19 and who are financially ineligible for SSI.</p> <p>These individuals are determined to be in need of institutionalized care but have chosen to remain at home because they can be cared for at a lower cost. Katie Beckett allows the deeming of the income and resources of the child's parents to be <i>waived</i> when determining ABD Medicaid eligibility.</p>
BASIC CONSIDERATIONS	<p>To be eligible under the Katie Beckett COA, an A/R must meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The A/R's age does not extend past the month s/he turns age 19. • The A/R is chronically impaired to the extent of being a suitable candidate for institutionalized care (nursing facility, hospital or intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded). • The A/R is financially ineligible for SSI in a private living arrangement (LA-A, B or C) due to his/her own income and/or resources or income/resources deemed from his/her parent(s). • The A/R meets the Level of Care (LOC) basic eligibility criteria. • The A/R meets all other basic and financial eligibility criteria. <p>NOTE: Length of Stay (LOS) is not a requirement for this COA.</p> <p>In some situations, a child may be eligible for either CCSP or Katie Beckett. The benefits of each COA should be explained to the parent(s) or other personal representative. Also, the availability of CCSP and MRWP services should be considered.</p>
PROCEDURES	<p>Follow the steps below to determine ABD Medicaid eligibility under the Katie Beckett COA.</p> <p>Step 1 Accept the A/R's Medicaid application.</p> <p>Step 2 Screen for SSI financial eligibility in one of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a SSI trial budget, deeming the income and/or resources of the child's parent(s). Refer to Section 2508, Deeming. Allow a one third deduction to the child's own income if it is Child Support from a non-custodial parent.

PROCEDURES

- Step 2 (cont.)**
- Obtain a current SSI denial letter, if available. However, do NOT require the family to apply for SSI if completion of a SSI trial budget indicates ineligibility for SSI.
- If the child is financially eligible for SSI, deny the ABD Medicaid application and refer the child to SSA for a SSI determination.
- If the child is financially ineligible for SSI, proceed with the Katie Beckett application.
- NOTE:** Review any reduction in the income or resources that might make the child eligible for SSI. Schedule interim reviews if changes are anticipated, and terminate Katie Beckett Medicaid if the child becomes eligible for SSI.
- Step 3**
- Give the family (or foster care worker if A/R is foster child) a packet of information regarding Katie Beckett COA. Go over forms/instructions with them so that they thoroughly understand how to complete. This packet should include:
- Verification Checklist
 - [Katie Beckett Cover Letter](#)
 - [Pediatric DMA-6\(A\)](#) and [instructions](#) for completion
 - Care Plan and instructions for completion ([DMA-706](#))
 - Cost-Effectiveness Form ([DMA-704](#))
- The A/R's family (or foster care worker), the attending physician and Medicaid Eligibility Specialist (MES) have roles in completing a DMA-6(A) on the A/R. Refer to Appendix F – Forms for instructions in completing DMA-6(A).
- The A/R's family (or foster care worker) and physician complete the Care Plan that outlines how the child's needs are met and the desired outcomes. Refer to Appendix F – Forms for instructions on completing the Care Plan.
- The A/R's physician completes the Cost-Effectiveness Form.
- Step 4**
- Continue with the eligibility determination process, establishing the child's disability using the SMEU process. Refer to Section [2205](#), ABD Requirement, for information to send to SMEU. If the child is determined not to be disabled by SMEU, deny the Katie Beckett application for failure to meet the disability criteria. Refer to Chapter 2200, Basic Eligibility Criteria. Refer for Family Medicaid or RSM, if potentially eligible.

PROCEDURES

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| Step 5 | When the family (foster care worker) returns the DMA-6(A), the Cost-Effectiveness Form and the Care Plan, check the forms to make sure that EVERY question has been addressed, even if completed with N/A (not applicable). The forms must be signed with original signatures by the physician, parent(s), foster care worker as indicated. Stamped signatures are not acceptable. The doctor's signature date on the DMA-6(A) is valid for 90 days. Return to the family for completion if lacking any of the requirements. Give them a reasonable time frame in which to return information. |
| Step 6 | <p>Have the family (foster care worker) obtain a psychological evaluation if any of the following is indicated on the DMA-6(A):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section B, item number 13, has a diagnosis of either mental illness, mental retardation, autism, or asperger syndrome<li style="text-align: center;">AND/OR• Section C, item number 33, Behavioral Status has ANY of the boxes checked OTHER THAN "Cooperative" and/or "Alert". <p>A psychological evaluation may be completed by a Ph.D., M.Ed., Child Development Specialist (Babies Can't Wait), Developmental Pediatrician or School Psychologist to accompany the other forms which are sent to GMCF. At initial application, this evaluation must have been completed within the last year from the date received at GMCF.</p> <p>Give the family a reasonable time in which to return the psychological evaluation.</p> |
| Step 7 | <p>When the Care Plan, Form DMA-706, is received from the family (foster care worker), obtain a copy of the therapy notes if therapy is indicated on page 2, "Therapies", of the Care Plan. The signature date on the Care Plan is valid for 90 days.</p> <p>Give the family a reasonable time in which to return the Therapy Notes.</p> |
| Step 8 | <p>If under School Services/Education of the Care Plan either the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Plan (IEP) block is checked, have the family provide copies of these.</p> <p>Give the family a reasonable time in which to return the IEP and/or IFSP.</p> |

PROCEDURES
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- Step 9** Once the MES has received all the necessary information/forms, the MES becomes the “gatekeeper” of the material. As such, copies should be made of any data sent to GMCF and SMEU.
- Step 10** The LOC is obtained by **mailing** the following completed items to the Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF) via the RMO for approval:
- Level-of-Care Determination Routing Form (DMA-705)
 - DMA-6(A)
 - Care Plan (DMA-706)
 - Psychological (if indicated)
 - Therapy Notes (if indicated)
 - IFSP (if indicated)
 - IEP (if indicated)
- The Level-of Care Determination Routing Form should be completed by the MES. Make sure that the Routing Form includes the MES’ name, SUCCESS caseload ID, DIRECT phone number, INTERNET email address and DFCS MAILING address. Please write legibly and keep a copy of the form. **Send all items together at one time** or the packet will be returned to DFCS by GMCF.
- NOTE:** If at any time the mailing address of the parents of a KB child changes during the LOC determination process, use the Routing Form to notify GMCF.
- Step 11** GMCF reviews the information submitted and does the following:
- If packet is incomplete, GMCF will return the packet to the MES to obtain missing information. Worker returns packet with corrected/missing form(s) to GMCF along with Routing Form completed identically to the original Routing Form. Return to beginning of Step 11.
 - If packet is complete, GMCF makes the LOC determination.
 - If LOC approval letter is received from GMCF, continue with eligibility determination process, Step 15.
 - If LOC is initially denied by GMCF, the family and DFCS will receive an “Initial Denial of Admission” letter. Proceed to Step 12.

PROCEDURES
(cont.)**Step 12**

The “Initial Denial of Admission” letter will identify the specific reason for the LOC denial. The family will have only 30 days from the date on the letter to appeal the decision by providing additional clinical information directly to GMCF for a reconsideration of the LOC determination. When counting days, day one is the first day following the date on the letter, regardless of whether that day is a weekend or a holiday. However, if the 30th day falls on a weekend or a holiday, the next full business day is the 30th day. The address for the family to respond to is printed on the letter.

If the family mistakenly sends the information to DFCS, forward immediately to GMCF to the address on the letter.

GMCF will make a LOC determination, and the MES will proceed as follows:

- If approval letter is subsequently received, continue with eligibility determination process, Step 15.

If GMCF denies LOC or family fails to appeal and/or provide additional clinical information within the 30 days after the LOC denial, DFCS and family will receive a “Final Determination Denial of Admission”. The letter will cite the specific criteria not met. The family will have an additional 30 days in which to appeal and/or provide medical information. For applications, MES will deny the case for no LOC. DO NOT WAIVE notice. For reviews, see REVIEW in this section.

If the family challenges the LOC denial, the family will send the appeal directly to DCH’s Legal Services at:

Georgia Department of Community Health
Legal Services Section
2 Peachtree Street – 40th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

The appeal to DCH must be made within 30 days of the date of the LOC denial letter. When counting days, day one is the first day after the date on the letter, regardless of whether that day is a weekend or holiday. However, if the thirtieth falls on a weekend or holiday, the next full business day is the thirtieth day.

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- Step 12 (cont.)** Should the family send the appeal to DFCS, forward the appeal to DCH's Legal Services. The state office Medicaid Unit will notify the county if an appeal has been filed. There are no benefits to continue with a denied application.
- An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) conducts the hearings for both LOC hearings and hearings for other reasons. However, requests for LOC hearings are routed through DCH Legal Services, not through OSAH. Follow the OSAH procedures (Appendix B – Hearings) for any hearing requests other than LOC.
- Step 13** The MES will do the following based on the outcome of the final LOC hearing:
- If the ALJ upholds the LOC denial, the case remains closed. No further action is required. However, if the family wants to appeal the ALJ decision, see Step 14.
 - If the ALJ overturns the LOC denial and provides a letter to that affect, the MES will register the Katie Beckett case again using the original application date and complete the eligibility determination process. It is not necessary to have the family sign a new application. Proceed to Step 15 or any other step not completed.
- Step 14** To appeal the ALJ decision, the family should file a written request for an agency review within 30 days of receipt of the decision to:
- Commissioner Rhonda Medows, MD
% Office of the General Counsel
2 Peachtree St, NW, 40th floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
- A copy must also be sent to DCH Legal at the same address in Step 12 , or they may fax copy to 404-657-5766.
- Step 15** Determine the child's suitability for care under a home care plan in lieu of institutionalized placement using the Cost-Effectiveness Form and the Katie Beckett Worksheet. Refer to Appendix F – Forms for the Worksheet.
- Complete a Katie Beckett Worksheet as follows:
- Based on the approved LOC as determined by GMCF, select the Medicaid cost of the appropriate institution using DCH's provided amounts. Refer to Appendix A1 for amounts. Base the type of institution chosen by the LOC reflected on the LOC approval letter.

PROCEDURES

**Step 15
(cont.)**

NOTE: If the LOC is hospital, submit the Cost-Effectiveness Form and Katie Beckett Worksheet to DCH until such time as the amount to use in determining cost-effectiveness for hospitals has been provided. Mail/fax copy of forms DMA-704 and the KB Worksheet to your area Medicaid Program Specialist, who will forward to DCH for completion.

- Subtract the physician's estimated monthly cost of home care on the Cost-Effectiveness Form from the monthly Medicaid billing rate of the institution.
- If in-home care is **more** costly, **deny** the Katie Beckett application.
- If in-home care is **less** costly or **equal** to, proceed with the Katie Beckett application.

NOTE: Take into consideration in the cost comparison process any health or LTC insurance coverage. Do not use GAPP services/costs in the cost effectiveness determination.

NOTE: The MES should never complete the Cost-Effectiveness Form for the family. If the doctor leaves blanks on the form, it is up to the family to get it completed. Other medical entities may complete and initial the parts of the form that pertain to services they render to the A/R.

Step 16

Proceed with the eligibility determination process, completing financial and other Basic Eligibility Criteria, if not already completed.

NOTE: Medicaid eligibility under the Katie Beckett COA is not held to the pay date shown on the LOC approval letter. Therefore, three months prior may be approved even if those months pre-date the pay date on the LOC letter. The end date of the LOC is one year from the date that the LOC determination was completed by GMCF, unless the LOC letter indicates otherwise.

NOTE: Receipt of an approved LOC letter from GMCF is not verification of disability.

Step 17

If the A/R meets all eligibility criteria, approve Medicaid on the system by entering all pertinent data including any retroactive months. The system will determine financial eligibility using the Medicaid Cap and issue notification letter(s). There is no patient liability for this COA.

REVIEW

Complete a review of eligibility annually and document any anticipated change in resources, income or potential SSI eligibility.

Complete Steps 3, 5, 9 – 11, and 14 - 17. If the DMA-6(A) indicates that a psychological evaluation is required, see Step 6 for procedures. Submit a new psychological to GMCF every third year of receipt of Medicaid under this COA. However, in the intervening years, provide GMCF with a copy of the still current psychological. If the Care Plan indicates the A/R receives therapy, follow procedures in Step 7. If the Care Plan indicates IFSP and/or IEP, follow procedures in Step 8.

Complete the following if the LOC is denied:

- If the family receives a letter of “Initial Denial of Admission” and submits additional clinical information timely to GMCF, leave case open pending “Final Determination Denial of Admission” or LOC approval.
- If family receives the “Final Determination Denial of Admission” from DCH, the family has 30 days in which to appeal. The MES should close the case effective the end of the month in which the 30 day appeal time falls. DO NOT waive notice.
- The state office Medicaid Unit will notify the county if the family has requested an appeal of the LOC. If the family appeals and requests that the case remains open pending the appeal or provides additional medical information to GMCF, the MES should reinstate the case. Add the following text to the reinstatement notice: “Case is reopened pending the outcome of the appeal or reconsideration based on additional medical information.”
- If the family appeals the denial and the LOC denial is overturned, reinstate the case, if not already reinstated.
- If the family appeals the denial and the hearing upholds the LOC denial, close the case, if reinstated, and waive the notice. If the family wishes to appeal the upheld LOC denial, they should make this appeal in writing to the DCH Commissioner. See Step 14.
- If the family does not appeal, the case remains closed.

NOTE: The end date of the LOC is one year from the date that the LOC determination was completed by GMCF, unless the LOC letter indicates otherwise. As much as possible align the expiration of the LOC with the annual review. However, never allow the LOC to expire before a new one is obtained. Best practice is to send the Katie Beckett packet with the DMA-6(A)

**REVIEW
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to the family at least a month prior to the expiration of the LOC. Anytime the A/R becomes ineligible for Katie Beckett Medicaid, terminate the case and complete a CMD. Refer to [Section 2052](#), Continuing Medicaid Determination.

**PROCEDURES FOR
CHILD TURNING
EIGHTEEN**

In the month the A/R turns 18 years of age, allow the Katie Beckett COA to close for the ongoing or following month. Then register and approve the A/R under SSI Medicaid (\$10) beginning the first month the Katie Beckett COA is closed. Send a verification checklist to the A/R or AREP requesting verification of application for SSI benefits. If the A/R fails to apply for SSI, close the existing case for failure to make application for other benefits. If the A/R provides verification of application for SSI, allow the SSI Medicaid (\$10) COA to remain open until the month after the month the child turns 19 years of age or until the SSI application is approved. If SSA makes a determination of **not** disabled, close the SSI Medicaid (\$10) COA providing timely notice.

**SPECIAL
CONSIDERATIONS**

A disabled child may be eligible for a \$30 SSI personal needs allowance from SSA if s/he meets the following criteria:

- Is disabled
- Received SSI benefits (limited to PNA) while in a medical treatment facility
- Is ineligible for SSI solely because of deemed income or resources of the parents
- Is currently eligible for Medicaid under one of the following COAs:
 - Katie Beckett ([Section 2133](#))
 - CCSP ([Section 2131](#))
 - Services under GAPP ([Section 2933](#))

If the child meets the above criteria, refer the parent(s) to SSA to continue the SSI \$30 PNA payment and Medicaid. Continue to maintain the child under the COA above unless the child no longer meets the criteria for that program.