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Policy

Programs and Legal Authorities

Policy

A person in jail, prison or other detention facility who is admitted to a hospital as an inpatient is not considered an inmate during the inpatient hospital stay. AHCCCS has agreements with several AZ counties to determine eligibility for inmates who are admitted for an inpatient stay.

1) Eligibility Requirements

The inmate must meet all of the conditions of eligibility for Medicaid to receive medical coverage for their inpatient hospitalization. However, there are some differences in how to treat the following conditions of eligibility:

- Residency; and
- Potential benefits.

Residency

The inmate must be an Arizona resident at the time of incarceration and not placed by another state's department of corrections. Being an inmate in an AZ detention facility does not make the person an AZ resident.

Potential Benefits

Inmates are not required to apply for the following benefits as they are not potentially eligible while incarcerated:

- SSI-Cash or SSA benefits;

- Veteran's Administration pension payments while in prison due to a felony; and
- Unemployment Insurance.

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2) Eligibility Period

If the person qualifies, AHCCCS will pay for covered services received during the inpatient stay only. The hospital admission date is the begin date and the hospital discharge date is the end date of eligibility.

3) Processing Inmate Referrals

The AHCCCS Central Eligibility Unit (CEU) processes "inmate inpatient" applications received from the counties.

Programs and Legal Authorities

Program	Legal Authorities
All Programs except KidsCare and MSP	42 CFR 435.1009 and 1010

