



MEPD and TW Bulletin 26-14

Date: Aug. 14, 2026

To: State and Regional Operations Supervisors and Staff
Program Managers
Regional Directors
Policy Attorneys
Hearings Officers

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
State Office 2106

Subject: **1. Removal of Fixed Certification Periods for CHIP and CHIP-Perinatal**
2. Processing Time Frames for CHIP Renewals Update

The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- [Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities Handbook \(MEPDH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/handbooks/medicaid-elderly-people-disabilities-handbook/mepd-policy-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/handbooks/medicaid-elderly-people-disabilities-handbook/mepd-policy-bulletins>;
- [Texas Works Handbook \(TWH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/twh-policy-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/twh-policy-bulletins>.

1. Removal of Fixed Certification Periods for CHIP and CHIP-P

Background

Federal regulations in 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §457.343 require states to conduct renewals for CHIP recipients once every 12 months. In addition, states must continue to provide CHIP to eligible people until they are determined ineligible.

Current Policy

CHIP

CHIP recipients receive a fixed 12-month certification period. If eligibility is not renewed before cutoff in the 11th month of the certification period, benefits automatically terminate the last day of the last benefit month. ([TWH D-110, General Policy](#), and [D-1631, Redetermination Processing Time Frames](#))

New Policy

CHIP

CHIP recipients receive a 12-month certification period. If a renewal form is received before the end of their certification period, do not terminate CHIP coverage until the redetermination process is complete. If additional information is requested and the final due date to provide information falls after the end date of the current certification period, CHIP coverage does not end until the last day of the month the household is found ineligible or fails to return the requested information.

Example: CHIP is approved with a certification period of Jan. 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026. The renewal packet is returned on 12/7/2026. Renewal is processed on Jan. 4, 2027, and the individual remains eligible for CHIP through Jan. 31, 2027. The extended certification period is Jan. 1, 2026 – Jan. 31, 2027. Additional information is requested from the household. Verification is due on Jan. 14, 2027. If the verification is returned by the due date, CHIP is approved for a new certification period beginning 2/01/2027. If the verification is not provided by the due date, CHIP coverage terminates at the end of the extended certification period, which in this example would be Jan. 31, 2027.

Automation

Changes to TIERS are currently scheduled to be implemented with TIERS Release R123.1 on Aug. 29, 2026.

Correspondence

Recipients whose CHIP coverage is maintained pending a full redetermination receive Form H1809, CHIP Coverage Extension, informing the household that CHIP coverage continues until HHSC completes a full redetermination. Notice is automatically sent if a renewal packet is returned, but the redetermination is not completed before the end of the certification period.

Note: HHSC sends Form H1809 only once, even if HHSC extends the recipient's CHIP coverage for more than one month.

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the January 2027 revision.

Training

Training will be made available in PALMS titled R123.1 General Information on Aug. 29, 2026.

Effective Date

This policy is effective with the implementation of TIERS Release 123.1 currently scheduled for Aug. 29, 2026.

2. Processing Time Frames for CHIP Renewals Update

Background

Federal regulations in 42 CFR §435.912 require states to redetermine eligibility before the end of the recipient's eligibility period or before the end of the following month, if the renewal form is submitted with less than 30 calendar days left in the eligibility period.

Current Policy

CHIP

For households that are required to return a CHIP renewal form, process renewals received timely or untimely, by the 30th day from the date the renewal form is received, or by cutoff of the 11th month of the certification period, whichever is later. ([TWH D-1631, Redetermination Processing Time Frames](#))

New Policy

CHIP

Redetermine eligibility by the end of the current certification period if the household submits the renewal form at least 30 calendar days before the end of the current certification period.

Redetermine eligibility by the end of the month following the end of the current certification period if the household submits the renewal form with less than 30 calendar days before the end of the current certification period.

Automation

Changes to TIERS are currently scheduled to be implemented with TIERS Release R123.1 on Aug. 29, 2026.

Correspondence

Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the January 2027 revision.

Training

Training will be made available in PALMS titled R123.1 General Information on Aug. 29, 2026.

Effective Date

This policy is effective with the implementation of TIERS Release 123.1 currently scheduled for Aug. 29, 2026.