



AAICAMA FAQs Series

Medicaid and State-Funded Adoption Assistance

5. Can an adoption assistance eligible child maintain more than one Medicaid card?

Answer: No, an individual should not maintain more than one Medicaid card at a time. Medicaid is received through a child's state of residence. An individual only has one legal residence at a time and only one state can claim federal reimbursement of a single Medicaid service. Therefore, a child is eligible for Medicaid in only one state at any one time and should have only one Medicaid card at a time.

Note: Every state has an automated Eligibility Verification System (EVS) that Medicaid providers may access by telephone, a card reader, and/or the internet to verify an individual's Medicaid eligibility status on a date specified by the provider. It is recommended that providers use EVS to verify a patient's Medicaid eligibility because it represents a recipient's most current eligibility status.

Out-of-state providers may be enrolled in several states' Medicaid programs, especially in border areas and are able to provide Medicaid through multiple states' Medicaid programs. If State residency is disputed, the involved states must determine where the child lived on the date(s) of service for which a provider or managed care organization is requesting reimbursement. If this cannot be resolved, the state of residence is where the child was physically present on the date of service.

*Cite: 42 U.S.C. §§ 673(b)(1) and 1396a(10)(A)(i)(I); 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.145, 435.403(g).
Cite: 42 C.F.R. §§ 431.52 and 435.403(g), (k), and (m).*

U.S.C. refers to the United States Code
C.F.R. refers to the Code of Federal Regulations