



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

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DIRECTOR

IV-D MEMORANDUM 2025-012

TO: All IV-D Staff*
FROM: Erin P. Frisch, Director
Office of Child Support (OCS)
DATE: June 2, 2025

UPDATE(S):

- Manual
- Form(s)

SUBJECT: Clarification on IV-D Services for Medicaid-Only Cases

ACTION DUE: None

POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon receipt

PURPOSE:

OCS has received requests to clarify the IV-D requirements involved in providing IV-D services to custodial parties (CPs) who receive medical assistance (Medicaid) along with their child(ren) without also receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).¹ These types of cases are called “Medicaid-only cases.” The following clarifications do not change current policies but expand the discussion of the policies found in the following sections of the *Michigan IV-D Child Support Manual*:

- Section 2.15, “Cooperation/Noncooperation/Good Cause”;
- Section 4.20, “Support Recommendations and Order Entry”; and
- Section 6.06, “Medical Support.”

A. Definitions

- **Medicaid-only case:** A case in which the CP receives medical assistance (Medicaid) along with his/her child(ren) without receiving TANF.²

¹ TANF is called Family Independence Program (FIP) in Michigan.

² Ref: Question 5 in Section B of this IV-D Memorandum for information about CPs receiving Medicaid and Food Assistance Program (FAP).

- **Medical-support-only case:** When IV-D services on a Medicaid-only case are limited to only medical support establishment and enforcement.
- **Child-only Medicaid case:** The children on the case receive only Medicaid; the CP does **not** receive TANF or Medicaid.

The terms above are not interchangeable.

B. Clarifications on Medicaid-Only IV-D Cases

The clarifications below apply to Medicaid-only cases as defined here; the clarifications do not apply to child-only Medicaid cases. New policies involving child-only Medicaid cases will be issued in a future IV-D Memorandum.

1. What does Michigan do on Medicaid-only cases?

a. Referral from the assistance program

Federal law allows the state’s Medicaid agency to determine which cases to refer to the IV-D agency. In Michigan, the Medicaid agency refers virtually all cases where at least one parent isn’t in the home.

b. Cooperation requirement

The CP must “...cooperate in establishing paternity (and) obtaining medical support and payments ...”³

c. Assignment of support

States must have laws that automatically assign rights to payment for medical care, including medical support payments if required under a court order.

d. IV-D establishment and enforcement services

All IV-D services and policies published in the *Michigan IV-D Child Support Manual* apply to Medicaid-only cases. In summary: at a minimum, the IV-D agency **must** establish paternity and attempt to obtain a court order for medical support.⁴ Then, if successful, the agency must enforce that order

³ Ref: federal Office of Child Support Services (OCSS) [Dear Colleague Letter \(DCL\)-00-122, Health Care Financing Administration \(HCFA\) Letter to State Medicaid Directors](#). Ref: [Section 2.15 of the Michigan IV-D Child Support Manual](#) for more information about cooperation requirements.

⁴ “Medical support” is defined as health care coverage or cash medical support or both. “Health care coverage” includes both private and public coverage. Ref: [Section 4.20 of the Michigan IV-D Child Support Manual](#) for the complete definitions of health care coverage (Subsection 3.3.1) and cash medical support (Subsection 3.3.2).

and assign collected cash medical support (Medical Support – Client [MS] debt type in MiCSES), if cash medical support is ordered.⁵

2. Can the IV-D agency provide full IV-D services, including cash child support?

Yes. In fact, Michigan assumes it should provide full IV-D services for cases referred to it from the Medicaid agency. However, if the IV-D program learns at any point that the CP on the Medicaid-only case wants *only* medical support establishment and enforcement services, the IV-D program must comply with that request. This provision is found in federal law.⁶

In Michigan, this flexibility in service is not broadly advertised to the CP. Yet, the policy does comply with federal law.⁷ If IV-D staff learn the CP wants only medical support services, staff must record that request in the Michigan Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES) following the procedures in the *Michigan IV-D Child Support Manual*.

3. Why is the Medicaid-only CP given the choice of receiving medical-support-only IV-D services?

The federal Social Security Act requires CPs who receive Medicaid only to cooperate in **medical support** establishment and enforcement; the law does not require them to receive full IV-D services. The rationale for this public policy is that the CP has only requested public assistance that helps him/her with health care coverage and/or medical expenses; (s)he has not requested cash assistance. Consequently, the CP is only required to cooperate with the state in obtaining medical support from another parent who is not in the home.

4. Can a CP on a TANF case or a CP who is not on assistance but applies for IV-D services choose to have medical support services only?

No. This flexibility is granted to only Medicaid-only cases because that is the CP who is being required to cooperate in only medical support. In a TANF case, the CP must receive all services. Likewise, those who apply for IV-D services are applying for *full* IV-D services.

⁵ Ref: [Section 5.10, "Debt Types," of the Michigan IV-D Child Support Manual](#).

⁶ 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 302.33(a)(5)

⁷ OCS may advocate for changes to MDHHS policy so that the CP would be prompted to definitively choose either medical-only or full IV-D services.

5. Can a CP receiving both Medicaid and Food Assistance Program (FAP) or both Medicaid and Child Development and Care (CDC) benefits choose medical-support-only services?

IV-D Memorandum 2024-016⁸ discussed the end of required cooperation for FAP and CDC recipients; they no longer must receive full IV-D services. Consequently, a CP receiving a combination of these benefits could choose medical support services only.

6. When obtaining a support order, what must the recommendation include in a Medicaid-only case?

Assuming the CP has not limited the services to medical support only, the IV-D agency must request child support and medical support following the procedures in Section 4.20 of the Michigan IV-D Child Support Manual. Ultimately, the court can accept, reject, or change the IV-D recommendation.

*If the CP **has** limited the services to medical support only, IV-D staff will **not** request child support. IV-D staff have several options to ensure the program meets the CP's request, which can include a deviation of the child support amount, holding support in abeyance, or reserving child support. IV-D staff may consult with their legal support team for guidance. IV-D staff may cite the requirements of federal law, as necessary.⁹*

IV-D staff **will** attempt to obtain health care coverage and/or cash medical support following Subsection 3.3 of Section 4.20 of the *Michigan IV-D Child Support Manual*.

Ultimately, the court can accept, reject, or change the IV-D recommendation.

7. The 2025 Michigan Child Support Formula introduced a deviation reason to allow a zero-support order if the formula produces a result that is under \$20. If this occurs, is the IV-D program required to seek cash medical support in a Medicaid-only case?

No. The IV-D requirement to seek medical support does not prohibit deviations. As with other deviations, the IV-D program can request a deviation and/or the court can deviate when it is appropriate to do so. However, in a Medicaid case, IV-D staff must also consider the availability of health care coverage following the policies found in Sections 4.20 and 6.06 of the *Michigan IV-D Child Support Manual*.

⁸ Ref: [IV-D Memorandum 2024-016, Anticipated End of the Child Support Cooperation Requirement for Food Assistance Program \(FAP\) Recipients and Introduction of a New Process for FAP-Only and/or Child Development and Care \(CDC\)-Only Cases.](#)

⁹ 45 CFR 302.33(a)(5)

OCS acknowledges that orders for zero support may be appropriate for financially struggling non-custodial parents associated to families on Medicaid.

8. When enforcing a support order in a Medicaid-only case, how is it different?

Assuming the CP has not limited the services to medical support only, enforcement happens as usual on a full-service case.

*If the CP **has** limited the services to medical support only, IV-D staff cannot use IV-D funds to enforce the child support obligation if it exists. The CP can limit these services at any time during his/her receipt of Medicaid benefits, even after the IV-D program itself obtained child support and medical support obligations. There may be technical challenges to some of the enforcement chains that limit the IV-D agency's ability to enforce only medical support but, where possible, the IV-D agency must avoid enforcing the child support debt.*

9. If the IV-D program obtains only health care coverage or only cash medical support obligations in the support order pursuant to the CP's request, does this have a negative impact on the program's performance incentives since there is no child support?

No. The fact that the order does not include an accruing cash child support amount does not count against Michigan in regard to the support order percentage. However, to ensure this is true, staff must code the case as "medical support only." For more information on properly coding a case for support order percentage, reference page 1 of [Exhibit 1.30E1, Performance Factor Indicators, in the Michigan IV-D Child Support Manual](#).

NECESSARY ACTION:

Retain this IV-D Memorandum until further notice.

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None

SUPPORTING REFERENCES:

Federal
45 CFR 302.33(a)(5)

OCSE DCL-00-122

State
None

ATTACHMENT(S):

None

EPF/MCA

* Ref: the [Michigan IV-D Child Support Manual Introduction and Table of Contents](#) for a definition of IV-D staff.