

KVHC Provides MaineCare Citizenship and Identity Verification Services

By Charlsey Davis and Brenda Bellantoni, Patient Assistance Specialists

Katahdin Valley Health Center (KVHC) is now an outreach location for the new MaineCare Citizenship and Identity Verification requirements. All MaineCare recipients are encouraged to call the office with questions regarding this new requirement. You need not be a patient of Katahdin Valley Health Center—we will assist anyone in need of help.

The Deficit Reduction Act passed in 2006 now requires those applying for and receiving MaineCare to provide proof of citizenship and identity. MaineCare recipients received notification through mailings from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). If you received a letter requiring you to verify your identity and/or citizenship, do not ignore it!

If you ignore it, you will be at risk for losing your MaineCare benefits. If you are not sure what, if any, information you need to provide to DHHS to continue receiving MaineCare benefits, you may want to contact your DHHS caseworker as soon as possible.

There is a deadline for MaineCare recipients to provide this information. If no information is provided to DHHS, then that person will be deemed ineligible for MaineCare. However, if DHHS can see that the MaineCare recipient is making a good faith effort to collect and provide the information, the benefits should continue. Once citizenship and/or identity have been verified, it will not be required again.

Please read any mailings you have received from DHHS regarding whether or not you must verify citizenship, identity, or both.

The following is a list of some of the documents you may use as proof of citizenship and/or identity: A U.S. Passport; a Certificate of Naturalization; a U.S. birth certificate; a current driver's license; a U.S. Citizen Identification Card; a federal, state or local government card; and school identification cards. Please keep in mind that *all documents must be originals*. No photocopies can be accepted.

Also be prepared to provide us with social security numbers or MaineCare identification numbers for each patient.

If you require assistance acquiring an out-of-state birth certificate, KVHC has applications for each state and is willing to help you fill out the necessary forms. People are encouraged to call the Citizenship and Identity Verification Hotline at 1-800-701-1887 with questions and requests for financial assistance for those experiencing financial hardships in acquiring birth certificates. Both the hotline and the funding will end on March 28, 2008.

Do not risk losing your MaineCare benefits. Contact KVHC's Patient Assistance Specialists at our toll-free telephone number 1-866-366-5842.

People in Houlton may contact Emily at extension 101. Those in the Patten and Island Falls area can contact Charlsey at extension 304. People in the Millinocket area can contact Brenda at extension 401 at KVHC's Medical Clinic or Barbara at extension 452 at KVHC's Dental Clinic.