Baby Gateway Newborn Enrollment Program

First 5 Santa Cruz County’s Baby Gateway Newborn Enrollment Program is making sure that all newborns in our county have health coverage. The main goal of the program is to establish a seamless Medi-Cal coverage process for Medi-Cal eligible newborns and to link those newborns to a medical home, all before they leave the hospital. Newborn Enrollment Coordinators are on site at local Prenatal Units (Dominican, Sutter, and Watsonville Hospitals) 5 days per week to help enroll eligible infants into Medi-Cal.

The Newborn Enrollment Coordinator (NEC) assists with:

- Enrolling a MC covered mother’s newborn into MC. Form completed allows the newborn to access full-scope MC coverage for one year.
- Adding the newborn to the family’s existing CalFresh case.
- Connecting the newborn to a Primary Care Physician.
- Helping new moms make their baby’s first well visit appointment. NEC keeps an updated list of doctors who are accepting new MC patients.
- Completing form to assign newborn with a school id and SEEDS savings account.

The Newborn Enrollment Coordinator provides mom with:

- Baby’s First Appointment card. This card is given to confirm that MC paperwork was completed at the hospital.

How can you help?

- Advise MC mothers that the NEC will visit them in their room before they are discharged to link their newborn to their MC case.
- If mom is discharged on the weekend, please advise her that she will get a call from NEC to fill out paperwork over the phone. You can also provide mom with NEC’s phone number. (See below)
- If mom plans to deliver at Sutter, advise mom that she must sign consent at admitting to be able to be seen by NEC.

For questions regarding an enrollment completed at:

- Watsonville Community Hospital: Call Laura Sotelo (NEC) at (831)761-5670
- Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center: Call Alicia Zenteno (NEC) at (831) 465-2210
- Dominican Hospital: Call Maribel Pedroza (NEC) at (831) 465-2202
- All other questions: Call Alicia Fernandez (Health Outreach and Enrollment Manager) at (831) 465-2209 or email afernandez@first5scc.org