



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Medical Assistance**

Pat McCrory  
**Governor**

Richard O. Brajer  
Secretary

Dave Richard  
Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance

December 14, 2015

**Re: Minimum Essential Coverage Reporting (MEC), 1095-B**

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) is the type of health coverage an individual needs to meet the individual responsibility requirement under the Affordable Care Act. This includes Medicaid/NC Health Choice for Children (NCHC), Medicare, job-based coverage, policies bought through the Health Insurance Marketplace and certain other coverage. If individuals have minimum essential coverage, they do not have to pay the fee for being uninsured.

Every employer/organization that provides MEC to an individual during a tax year must file a 1095-B Information Return with the Internal Revenue Service. In addition to sending a 1095-B to the IRS, the Division of Medical Assistance is required to send a 1095-B to every individual/casehead receiving Minimum Essential Coverage under the Medicaid/NCHC programs. The 1095-B will serve as proof that the individual has received MEC in 2015. The form will indicate which months the individual received MEC in the tax year. MEC does not include limited coverage groups such as Family Planning, MQB and cases in deductible status.

The casehead will receive the 1095-B in January 2016. All forms will be sent out by January 31, 2016. Active, related household members will be listed on the same 1095-B. Beneficiaries will receive more than one form if there are more than six MEC individuals in the household. Active, unrelated individuals in the same household will receive a separate form.

If beneficiaries have any questions about their 1095-B form, they are instructed to contact the OMA call center at 1-888-245-0179. However, due to the volume of forms to be mailed, the County Department of Social Services may experience an increase in calls from the beneficiaries. Please ensure the beneficiary understands that it is not necessary to inquire about not receiving a form prior to January 31, 2016. OMA has provided some examples of questions with clear and consistent responses to be shared.

***What is the form 1095-B?***

It is a form for tax filers to assist them in filling out their tax form (EZ1040, 1040A, 1040, etc.). The form is sent to individuals who have health insurance coverage that meets the MEC requirement.

***What is MEC?***

Minimum Essential Coverage. Most (but not all) Medicaid and NC Health Choice is considered minimum essential coverage. Individuals who have MEC throughout most or all of the tax year are not liable for the individual shared responsibility payment on their taxes.

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov)

Tel 919-855-4100 • Fax 919-733-6608

Location: 1985 Umstead Drive • Kirby Building • Raleigh, NC 27603

Mailing Address: 2501 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-2501

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Dear County Director of Social Services  
December 14, 2015  
Page 2 of 2

***Will the beneficiary need to mail the form 1095-B to IRS when they file their taxes?***

No. The Form 1095-B is only to assist the tax filer in filling out the MEC section of their tax forms.

***Is Medicare MEC?***

Yes.

***I received a form 1095-B but I don't earn enough to file taxes. Do I need to do anything with the form?***

No.

***The form 1095-B lists a family member who no longer lives with me. Do they need a separate form?***

You or your family member can request a separate form be mailed to their new address by calling the NC Division of Medical Assistance (OMA) call center at 1-888-245-0179.

***Is it possible to receive a form 1095-B from different providers?***

Yes. Each provider of MEC is responsible for reporting the portion of coverage they provide. For example, if you receive MEC from a private health insurance provider for six months and MEC Medicaid for six months, you may receive two forms: one from the health insurance provider and one from the state Medicaid agency.

***Is it possible to receive a second form 1095-B from the same provider?***

Yes. Certain changes or corrections in your information can trigger a second form to be sent out. The "corrected" checkbox will be checked on the top of the right corner of the 1095-B form. When filing your taxes, you should always refer to the last form you received.

***I received one form for my spouse and myself. We live together, but we plan on filing separately. Does my spouse need a separate 1095-B?***

No. It can be shared by family members who live together even if they file separately.

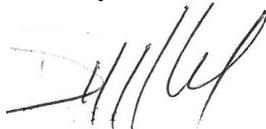
***I also received a form 1095-C. What is the form 1095-C?***

Form 1095-C is used by employers to report on employer health plans that are MEC. This form is used to describe the coverage offered to employees of a company with at least 50 full-time workers. If your employer offered you MEC, you will receive Form 1095-C, even if you declined the coverage.

Caseworkers will have the ability to reprint the 1095-B form in NCFASST if the beneficiary has not received it after January 31st. Counties may receive undeliverable mail with an enclosed 1095-B form due to an incorrect address. The county caseworker must attempt to locate the beneficiary, update the new address and/or mail the 1095-B form. Follow procedures for "unable to locate" to identify a new address and before taking any negative action on an active case.

If you have any questions, please contact the Operational Support Team at [ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,



Dave Richard