

Release Date: June 26, 2017

CalHEERS will be updated to version 17.6 on June 26, 2017. These release notes are intended to inform you of important changes to the functionality of CalHEERS.

New Optional Sexual Orientation Gender Identity Page

Previously, CalHEERS did not capture information regarding a consumer's sexual orientation or gender identity. It only asked for the consumer's gender: *Male* or *Female* on the *Household* pages.

Now, once the consumer's application is submitted, the *Eligibility* page will now have a new section 'Additional Demographic Information' with a link to the [Additional Demographic Information](#) page that the consumer or Certified Enroller can access to answer questions regarding the consumer's orientation and identity. These questions are optional, confidential and not used to determine eligibility or benefits.

New Eligibility Confirmation for Medi-Cal Eligible Consumers

Previously, MAGI- Medi-Cal eligible consumers who were determined eligible did not have a way to immediately access coverage with providers and were at the mercy of their county with regards to receiving documentation or medical cards by mail, in order to access coverage.

Now, consumers and enrollers have access to a new section on the *Eligibility page* to print a [Medi-Cal Eligibility Confirmation](#). This page can be taken to a provider for immediate access to care in place of a benefits identification card (BIC) in the event that the consumer needs to seek immediate attention. A permanent benefits identification card will be mailed to the consumer.

CalHEERS Will Collect New Information

Previously, there application questions that were unclear or contained language that confused consumers.

Now, CalHEERS collects additional information and has updated language/options to clarify application questions:

- Name of American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) Federally recognized tribe: [Tribe Not Listed](#) is a new option if the tribe name is not listed
- Transgender options when selecting gender: [Male to Female and Female to Male added](#)
- Pregnancy questions will now display universally (not just for gender selection female)
- Relationship Status Changes: Removed *Collateral Dependent* and *Adopted Son/Daughter* and changed them to *Other Relative* and *Son/Daughter*, respectively
- Removed Question: *Does this child have a parent living outside the home, a deceased parent, or is this child adopted by a single parent?*

New Enhanced Account Creation Screens for Consumers

Previously, Certified Enrollers could guide consumers through creating CalHEERS accounts via clicking [Don't have an account? Create one now.](#) on the Covered California *Account Sign in* page. Certified Enrollers walked consumers through multiple pages, making the process lengthy and confusing.

Now, the [Account Creation pages](#) have been consolidated into a smart form, one page with a new user-friendly layout and design similar to the *Income* pages. Like the enhanced *Income* pages, the application will populate additional questions to guide the consumer through the account creation process.