

DATE: June 4, 2015

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #15-06-02

SUBJECT: Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) and Health Choices Expansion (HCE)

TO: Executive Directors

FROM: Inez Titus
Acting Director
Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) of populations that will become eligible for medical transportation services due to the implementation of HCE.

BACKGROUND

On April 27, 2015, the Department of Human Services implemented HCE, which replaced *Healthy PA*, as described in [OPS 15-04-02](#). Under *Healthy PA*, individuals enrolled in the Private Coverage Option (PCO) received health care benefits through the PCO package, which did not include medical transportation services through the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) or the CAO. With HCE, individuals began to transition out of PCO coverage and into traditional MA, which does provide medical transportation services.

DISCUSSION

The following populations are eligible for medical transportation services due to the implementation of HCE:

- Individuals who transitioned as part of Phase 1 of HCE became eligible for medical transportation services in the Adult package, effective April 27, 2015.
- Individuals not transitioned in Phase 1 of HCE, but who later have eligibility run on their PCO budget, and are found eligible for traditional MA. These individuals become eligible for medical transportation services in the Adult Package on the effective date of their traditional MA coverage.
- Individuals who transition in Phase 2 of HCE become eligible for medical transportation services in the Adult package effective July 27, 2015.

When determining individual eligibility for an MTA, CIS and eCIS screens may show an overlap of PCO and MA eligibility, due to the timing of closing the PCO category. An individual may be considered for an MTA on the date that traditional MA eligibility began.

Example: On 4/25/15, Frank is eligible for PCO 91. Phase 1 transition occurs on 4/25/15 and Frank is made eligible for MG 91 with the Adult package, effective 4/27/15 onward. PCO 91 is end-dated for 5/31/15. Frank is eligible for medical transportation services effective 4/27/15.

Example: On 5/5/15, Emma is eligible for PCO 99. That day, Emma's caseworker processes an income change and finds Emma eligible for MG 00 P with the Adult package, effective 5/5/15 onward. PCO 99 is end-dated for 5/31/15. Emma is eligible for medical transportation services effective 5/5/15.

Important: HCE does not change eligibility criteria for MTAs or the process for issuing MTAs. See [CAH 138.31](#), [138.412](#) and [OPS 14-07-01](#).

County MATP providers have been made aware of the individuals affected by HCE implementation. If the CAO questions an MATP referral/denial based on the PCO/MA category, or any other reason, contact your CAO liaison who can clarify with the MATP agency using guidance provided in [OPS 14-07-01](#).

PCO recipients were mailed information on how to request medical transportation ([Attachment 1](#)). If a PCO recipient contacts the CAO with a request for medical transportation, it should be treated as a Raise Your Hand request. Eligibility will be run on the case to open the individual in MA and a narrative will be entered. The medical transportation request can then follow the normal procedure.

NEXT STEPS

1. Share and review this information with appropriate staff members.
2. Direct questions regarding this Operations Memorandum to your Area Manager.
3. This Operations Memorandum will become obsolete on September 1, 2015.