

DATE: September 27, 2013

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM # 13-09-05

SUBJECT: Introduction of the Application for Health Care Coverage (PA 600 HC) and the Insert to Collect Additional Questions for Health Care Coverage (PA 1904)

TO: Executive Directors

FROM: Tom Strickler
Director
Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

To provide the attached [PA 600 HC](#) – Pennsylvania’s new single, streamlined application for health care coverage as required by the Patient Protection and Affordability of Care Act (ACA).

To provide information about the use of the attached [PA 1904](#), an insert for the collection of additional questions and responses for health care coverage to meet the new ACA health care requirements. The PA 1904 form will be:

- Used when the new health care information has not yet been incorporated in the application (*e.g.*, the PA 600 or the PA 600 CH.1) and the new health care information should be requested.
- Sent with certain renewal packets, beginning with the September mailing.

Although it is required to ask these additional questions for health care coverage, an applicant cannot be denied and a recipient cannot be closed for failure to complete or return the insert.

BACKGROUND

The ACA makes several changes to the Medical Assistance (MA) application process by requiring a single, streamlined application for all insurance affordability programs which include MA, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Advance Premium Tax Credits (APTC) and Cost-Sharing Reductions (CSR). Eligibility for these programs will be determined using Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) rules.

DISCUSSION

Effective upon receipt and distribution, the County Assistance Offices (CAOs) are to use the [PA 600 HC](#) as the single, streamlined application to determine eligibility for MA based on MAGI.

If an individual applying with a [PA 600 HC](#) falls into a non-MAGI group, the CAO will continue to send a PA 253 to request any additional information needed to determine eligibility. A supplemental application does not need to be completed.

When an application for health care, cash assistance and/or SelectPlan for Women is submitted and does not include the PA 600 HC's newly-added MAGI and APTC/CSR information, the CAO will send the [PA 1904](#) to request this information for MAGI-identified households. However, eligibility cannot be denied for failure to complete or return the insert. The CAO can also obtain this information over the telephone.

Additional details for when to start using MAGI determination rules will be available in a separate Operations Memo - Application Requirements under the ACA.

NEXT STEPS

1. Share and review this information with appropriate staff members.
2. Each CAO will receive an initial supply of the [PA 600 HC](#). Additional supplies are available for order through the warehouse.
3. Use the [PA 1904](#) with the current PA 600 CH.1 application until supplies of the new PA 600 HC are received.
4. The PA 600 CH.1 is now obsolete and should no longer be used once PA 600 HC supplies are received.

Attachments