

DATE: January 9, 2015

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #15-01-04

SUBJECT: Hospital-Based Presumptive Eligibility Policy Changes

TO: Executive Directors

FROM: Tom Strickler
Director
Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) of policy changes to hospital-based presumptive eligibility (PE).

BACKGROUND

Currently, inpatient acute care hospitals enrolled as PE providers submit PE applications through COMPASS for four MAGI groups: pregnant women, children, parents/caretakers and former foster care children under the age of 26. When the hospital PE provider submits a COMPASS PE application, it functions as the ongoing Medical Assistance (MA) application. Recent guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires changes to PE policy and the COMPASS PE application. In addition, with the implementation of Healthy PA, hospital-based PE will be expanded to include the new adult population.

DISCUSSION

Effective December 1, 2014, individuals applying for PE through hospital PE providers will be given the option of applying for PE and ongoing MA, or PE only. The hospital PE provider should still encourage and assist the PE applicant in applying for ongoing MA. However, the hospital PE provider must inform PE applicants of their choice to apply for ongoing MA or not. Hospital PE providers must advise PE applicants that they will receive only the PE period if they choose not to apply for ongoing MA.

The COMPASS PE question for providers, which displays in the COMPASS healthcare application, will be expanded to ask the hospital PE provider if the individual is applying for:

- a. PE only.
- b. PE and ongoing MA.
- c. MA only.

REMINDER: If the applicant is applying for PE, the provider must still complete and submit a PE worksheet.

On the COMPASS Summary Page next to Presumptive Eligibility field, the following text will be populated:

- a. Yes - If the hospital responds “PE only”.
- b. Yes/Ongoing MA - If the hospital PE provider responds “PE and ongoing MA”.
- c. No - If the hospital responds “Ongoing MA only”.

If a PE applicant initially applies for PE only, but later submits an ongoing MA application during the PE period, the PE period must not end before the ongoing MA determination is made. The PE period must be extended to allow for the ongoing MA eligibility determination to be made. All ongoing MA applications must be processed timely.

To extend the PE period:

1. Be sure the current PE period is in closed status.
2. Process a second PE period beginning the day after the initial PE period ends.
3. Close the PE period when the ongoing MA determination is made.

Example: John, age 10, is admitted to the hospital on January 15, 2015. The hospital, a PE provider, gives his mother, Sue, the option to apply for PE/ongoing MA or PE only. Sue opts to apply for PE only for John. The PE provider submits a COMPASS PE application and PE Worksheet to the CAO on January 15, 2015 with a requested PE begin date of January 15, 2015 on both the Worksheet and in the Date of First Admission or Treatment field on the COMPASS Summary Page. The CAO processes and authorizes MG17 with the PE period of January 15, 2015 – February 28, 2015. On February 10, 2015, Sue applies for MA for John by submitting a PA600 HC. The CAO is unable to obtain proof of income from an electronic data source and sends a PA253 requesting proof of income by March 5, 2015. On February 28, 2015, the CAO authorizes a second PE period

beginning March 1, 2015. Sue returns the income proof to the CAO on March 3, 2015 and the CAO processes and authorizes ongoing MA for John effective February 10, 2015 and closes the PE period.

Effective January 1, 2015, hospital PE providers will be able to submit PE applications through COMPASS for any individual age 19 - 64 in addition to the existing PE groups. The income limits for the PE groups are:

1. Pregnant women and children under age 1 – 215% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
2. Children ages 1-5 – 157% of the FPL.
3. Children ages 6-18 – 133% of the FPL.
4. Parents/caretakers – 33% of the FPL.
5. Individuals ages 19-64 – 133% of the FPL.
6. Former foster care child under age 26 – No income test, but must be income ineligible for all other PE categories to qualify for PE in this group.

Note: A provider may determine that an individual is not eligible for the parent/caretaker PE group due to income; however the provider may still determine the individual eligible in the 19 - 64 PE group if the individual's countable income is at or below 133% FPL.

Example: Dave, a single, childless, 54-year-old male goes to the emergency room of his local hospital following a car accident. The hospital, a PE provider, determines Dave eligible for PE and submits a COMPASS PE/ongoing MA application and PE Worksheet on June 12, 2015 with a requested PE begin date of June 10, 2015. The hospital completes the Health Screening for Dave that shows he has no chronic medical conditions. Dave is screened as healthy. Dave's monthly earned income is \$1200/month. The CAO authorizes MG17 with a begin date of June 10, 2015 and end date of July 31, 2015. On July 1, 2015, the CAO processes ongoing MA and obtains proof of income from TALX. Dave is eligible and is authorized in the MG93 category until July 31, 2015. The PE period is closed. Dave is authorized PCO91 beginning August 1, 2015.

With the implementation of Healthy PA, pregnant women whose household income is under 133% of the FPL qualify for PE in the MG17 category/program status code (PSC). Pregnant women with household income greater than 133% but less than 215% qualify for PE in the PS17 category/PSC.

Example: Martha applies for PE only through her local hospital, an enrolled PE provider. She is single and pregnant with her first child. She has income of \$600/month from a part-time job. The hospital PE provider determines Martha eligible for PE and submits a COMPASS PE only application and PE Worksheet

to the CAO on February 15, 2015 with a requested PE begin date of February 11, 2015. Because Martha's income is below 133% of the FPL, the CAO authorizes Martha MG17 beginning February 11, 2015 and ending March 31, 2015.

NEXT STEPS

1. Share and review this information with appropriate staff members.
2. Please contact your area manager if you have questions regarding this Operations Memorandum.
3. This Operations Memorandum will become obsolete upon release of the revised Handbook.