

Policy Clarifications – Medicaid PMA 18904-304

Submitted: 04/27/2018

Agency: OIM Bureau of Operations

Subject: Timeframes to Process Shortened Medical Assistance (MA)
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Access to Social Services
(COMPASS) Inmate Release Applications

Question: How soon should the County Assistance Offices (CAOs) process MA applications for individuals being released from correctional facilities?

Response By: Division of Health Services

Date: 05/01/2018

Shortened MA COMPASS applications for individuals being released from incarceration must be processed fifteen to five days prior to the individual's release date. If the CAO cannot process the application at least five days prior to release, the CAO must take the following action:

- review the case; and
- narrate the date the case was reviewed; and
- narrate why the case cannot be processed timely.

The Department of Human Services and the Department of Corrections have been working together to ensure released individuals are authorized for MA and provided with their Recipient Identification Number (RID) before release, so they have access to healthcare coverage upon release.

For more information about processing the shortened COMPASS MA release applications please see Ops Memo 16-11-05 and PMA 18782-304.