**Policy Clarifications**

**Medical Assistance – MAWD**

**PMW-20508-316**

**Submitted: 2/27/2021 Agency: CAOs**

**Subject: Medical Assistance (MA) Recipients Who Become Eligible for Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) During the COVID-19 Emergency Must Not Owe a Monthly Premium**

**Question**: **Should MA recipients (in a category other than MAWD) who become eligible for MAWD be responsible for a monthly premium during the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency?**

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| **Response By: Division of Health Services** | **Date: 6/03/21** |  |

No. CMS has clarified that individuals who were open in an MA category that did not charge a premium, including a Buy-In only category, on or after January 1, 2020 and move to MAWD cannot be charged a premium because it is considered an increase in the premium since they were not responsible for a premium in their previous MA category. Therefore, individuals who move from an MA category, including a Buy-In only category, to MAWD must not be charged a monthly premium.

Effective immediately, the County Assistance Office (CAO) must take action to ensure an individual who was an MA recipient, including in a Buy-In only category, on or after January 1, 2020, and becomes eligible for MAWD during the public health emergency (PHE) does not owe a monthly premium.

* If the individual was in an MA category, including Buy-In only, and is eligible for PW00 (MAWD without Buy-In), the CAO will complete an override to place the individual in PH00 (Healthy Horizons without Buy-In), suppress the MAWD rejection/termination notice, send the [MAWD LETTER 1](https://pagov.sharepoint.com/sites/DHS-OIM/Attachments/MAWD%20draft%20letter%20for%20new%20MA%20to%20MAWD%20transitions%20%20for%20PC%20060221.docx) in addition to the Healthy Horizons system notice and narrate the actions taken.
* If the individual was in an MA category, including Buy-In only, and is eligible for PW80 or PW66 (MAWD with Buy-In), the CAO will complete an override to place the individual in PH80 (Healthy Horizons with Buy-In), suppress the MAWD rejection/termination notice, send the [MAWD LETTER 1](https://pagov.sharepoint.com/sites/DHS-OIM/Attachments/MAWD%20draft%20letter%20for%20new%20MA%20to%20MAWD%20transitions%20%20for%20PC%20060221.docx) in addition to the Healthy Horizons system notice and narrate the actions taken.

**IMPORTANT:** When completing an override from PW to PH in a Case Open workflow, the CAO must delete the MAWD Premium Tracking screen prior to committing the case, so the individual does not continue to be charged a premium. When completing an override from PW to PH in a Maintenance workflow, the MAWD Premium Tracking screen will be automatically end-dated and deleted.

The CAOs will be provided with instructions and a list of individuals who were MA recipients, including in a Buy-In only category, on or after January 1, 2020 and moved to MAWD.

For more information on MAWD processing during the PHE see:

[**PMW 20084-316**](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/ma/c_299851.docx)

[**PMW 20084-316**](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/ma/c_299851.docx)

Attachment: [MAWD LETTER 1](https://pagov.sharepoint.com/sites/DHS-OIM/Attachments/MAWD%20draft%20letter%20for%20new%20MA%20to%20MAWD%20transitions%20%20for%20PC%20060221.docx):