

Policy Clarifications
Medical Assistance – All
PMA-19881-378

Submitted: 04/06/2020

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Self-Attestation of Incapacity/Disability for Medical Assistance (MA) During the COVID-19 Emergency

Question: Can the County Assistance Office (CAO) accept an individual's self-attestation of incapacity/disability when determining MA during the coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency?

Response By: Division of Health Services

Date: 4/24/20

Yes. [Operations Memorandum 20-03-02](#) allows for self-attestation of all eligibility factors except citizenship and immigration status. The CAO will accept an individual's self-attestation of incapacity/disability for MA during the COVID-19 emergency with two exceptions:

1. The CAO will not accept self-attestation of an Emergency Medical Condition (EMC) when reviewing a non-citizen for Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA) unless the EMC is related to COVID-19 testing or services.
2. The CAO will not accept self-attestation of functional eligibility for Long Term Care (LTC) and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS).

If an individual self-attests to having an incapacity/disability and is eligible for MAGI MA, the CAO will open them without delay (For more information, see the "Disability and CAO Action" section of [Operations Memorandum 16-03-05](#) and MAEH 312).

If an individual self-attests to having an incapacity/disability and is eligible for non-MAGI MA and a Disability Advocacy Program (DAP) referral is needed, the CAO will take the following actions:

- For Social Security Administration (SSA) referrals, the CAO will have the individual sign the DAP Referral Form (PA 731) or verify the individual has

applied for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) prior to authorizing MA.

- For Medical Review Team (MRT) referrals, the CAO will wait until the individual's next renewal after the COVID-19 emergency has ended to request medical documentation if there is insufficient medical documentation to make the referral.