**Policy Clarification**

**Medical Assistance- All**

**PMA-20502-322**

**Submitted: 5/27/2021 Agency: CAOs**

**Subject: The correct entry of an Emergency Medical Condition (EMC) in the Nature of Emergency field on the Alien/Refugee Screen**

**Question**: **Is it important that the correct Nature of Emergency is entered under the Medical Emergency section on the Alien/Refugee screen in eCIS?**

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| **Response By: Division of Health Services** |  **Date: 5/27/2021** |  |  |
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Yes. Not only is it important to enter the correct EMC in this field for case accuracy, the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) also uses this field to verify an individual’s EMC for services that require prior authorizations and continuing Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA).

Cases that currently have inaccurate EMCs in the Nature of Emergency field do not need immediate case action for correction. At renewal or review of continuation for EMA, the County Assistance Office (CAO) should review the EMC for accuracy and update as needed.

**NOTE:** If individuals have their EMA extended due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency (PHE), the CAO should enter “PHE,” after the original valid “Nature of Emergency,” if space allows, and narrate that the PHE is the reason for the extension (Example: Appendicitis/PHE). The CAO should not enter “COVID-19” in the Nature of Emergency field unless the individual’s EMC is “COVID-19.” Please see [PMA-20334-322](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/ma/PMA-20334-322-_PC-Children_Turning_Age_21_and_Pregnant_Non-Citizens_During_the_Coronavirus_%28COVID-19%29_Public_Health_Emergency_%28PHE%29.docx) for more details on processing MA for non-citizens during the PHE.