



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
600 Washington Street • Boston, MA 02111

MITT ROMNEY
Governor

KERRY HEALEY
Lieutenant Governor

RONALD PRESTON
Secretary

JOHN A. WAGNER
Commissioner

Field Operations Memo 2003-8
March 21, 2003

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff

From: *cd* Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

Re: Change to Basic MassHealth

Background Effective April 1, 2003, Basic MassHealth for long-term unemployed adults ends. This termination impacts approximately 42,000 MassHealth recipients.

On Monday, March 17, these recipients were mailed a notice (Attachment A) telling them about:

- the termination, and
- other ways to get MassHealth.

The Application Information Unit will be fielding calls from these MassHealth recipients about EAEDC eligibility. They will also mail out applications, as requested.

This termination of Basic MassHealth does not impact the EAEDC population.

**MassHealth
Recipient
Contacts TAO**

If any of these MassHealth recipients calls a TAO requesting information, the phone call should be answered and processed by the TAO. These recipients should be encouraged to apply for SSI as another way to get health coverage.

Additionally, the notice instructs the recipient who previously applied only for Basic MassHealth to ask if a favorable disability determination is on file with DES. If during the course of applying for EAEDC, the recipient asks about the favorable disability determination, the AU Manager should inform the Disability Liaison.

The Disability Liaison must contact DES at 1-888-497-9890 to determine if a favorable disability determination is on file and, if it is, send a *Disability Determination Tracking Form* to DES. DES will complete the form and return it to the Liaison. The Liaison will return it to the appropriate AU Manager.

The AU Manager must determine the length of time that remains in the current disability period and enter the appropriate duration period on the Disability window.

Example: The *Disability Determination Tracking Form* is returned from DES for Mary Smith, who applied for EAEDC in March. The disability duration period begins in December of 2002 and lasts for 10 months. Mary's AU Manager would enter the duration period of 4-6 months on the Disability window. If the remaining disability duration period is expected to last 60 days or less, the AU Manger would enter 60 days as the duration period and give the applicant new disability forms.

**Continuing
EAEDC
Eligibility for
MassHealth**

If any current EAEDC recipient calls, AU Managers should tell the recipient that his or her health insurance will continue.

Additionally, EAEDC recipients should be told that if their AU closes, they will be eligible for MassHealth for 30 days from the date of closing. During that time, the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) will send out an application for continued eligibility. DMA will be responsible for an eligibility review to determine continued MassHealth eligibility.

No additional TAO action is needed at this time.

Questions

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478.

Where Else Can You Get Health Coverage?

MassHealth for long-term unemployed adults ends April 1, 2003. Unemployed adults, age 19-64, may still be eligible for MassHealth if they are disabled, HIV positive, pregnant, or caring for a child. **If you think you are still eligible, contact a MassHealth Enrollment Center at 1-888-665-9993.**

You also have the right to appeal the termination of your MassHealth if you think that MassHealth has made the wrong decision. Free legal services may be available to help you with an appeal, look in the community services section of the telephone book under "legal services" or visit www.masslegalservices.org. **See the attached notice for information about how to appeal.**

Other ways to get MassHealth

- **Emergency Assistance to Elders, Disabled and Children***

Recipients of cash assistance from a program of the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) called Emergency Assistance to Elders, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) are automatically eligible for MassHealth Basic.

For more information from DTA about EAEDC eligibility and how to apply, call 1-800-249-2007

- **Department of Mental Health**

Some clients of the Department of Mental Health (DMH) are eligible for MassHealth.

For information from DMH about how to become a DMH client, call 617-626-8000.

Other programs that provide free or low cost health care

- Free care is available at acute care hospitals and community health centers. For more information contact your local hospital or community health center.

- Call or visit these websites for information about other health care programs

The Mayor's Health Line 1-800-847-0710 or 617-534-5050

The Health Care for All Helpline 1-800-272-4232 or 617-350-7279

Access to Health Care <http://www.state.ma.us/dhcfp/pages/dhcfp138.htm>

MassCares Resources <http://masscares.org/RLocator/Default.asp>

*** Eligibility for EAEDC.** EAEDC recipients must have very low income and limited assets and be adults disabled for 60 days or more, full time secondary school students under age 21, participants in Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission programs or adults providing constant care for a disabled person. *Even if you were denied disability by DMA, there may be a favorable disability determination on file for EAEDC, ask your DTA worker to check.*