



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
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Field Operations Memo 2004-08
February 27, 2004

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
From: *cd* Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: EAEDC – Using SSI Disability Standards to Determine Disability

New Disability Standards

The Department revised the EAEDC medical standards to conform to the SSI disability criteria (excluding the durational requirement). The Disability Evaluation Services (DES) will determine EAEDC disability using the SSI disability criteria without regard to SSA's 12-month durational requirement. This means that certain individuals with a short-term disability (rather than SSA's 12-month requirement) will be considered disabled for EAEDC.

These standards, implemented by State Letter 1274 are effective March 1, 2004.

SSI Applications

State Letter 1274 also changed regulations to say that EAEDC applicants *must* apply for SSI at application for EAEDC. Presently, the Department is not implementing this regulation. TAO Staff will be told when the regulation will be implemented and given procedures for the implementation.

Current procedures related to applying for SSI will continue. TAO Staff are reminded that EAEDC recipients should **not** be referred to apply for SSI until DES determines the recipient appears to meet the SSI disability criteria.

**AU Manager
Impact**

This change does not impact the AU Manager's role in the disability determination process currently in place.

The Department will develop a plan for reviewing currently disabled EAEDC individuals using the new criteria. TAO Staff will be provided with the revised procedures at a later date. Until then, AU Managers must process all of these individuals using current procedures.

**Living
Arrangement C
and Living
Arrangement E**

AU Managers are reminded that EAEDC recipients with Living Arrangement C and Living Arrangement E budgets are considered disabled. However, AU Managers must not follow the disability process found in *A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON* Chapter XIII, Section H for these recipients. This is because the Professional Review Organization (PRO) does not review any of these AUs to determine eligibility.

For now, AU Managers must answer "No" to the Disability question on the Nonfinancial Q&A Navigator. AU Managers should **not** enter any information for these recipients on the Disability window. This is a temporary workaround. BEACON will be changed to allow these two groups of recipients to be marked "Disabled" on the Nonfinancial Q&A Navigator and enter information on the Disability window.

**Revised Medical
Form**

The *Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children Medical Report* has been revised effective March 1, 2004 to reflect these new standards. The revisions also include Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)-related changes. AU Managers **must** destroy any old *Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children Medical Report* forms.

Questions

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