

FYI

Changes to DTA Online

This month you will see the following changes to DTA Online:

Diversity - Events

November has been designated as National American Indian Month. The Diversity - Events option includes a link to a summary about this designation.

Monthly Updates

Monthly Updates includes the following new options:

- *From the Forms File*
- *From the Hotline*
- *FYIs*
- *Keypoints*
- *Quality Corner*
- *Transitions*

These enhancements allow access to the information summarized in the current month's issue of *Transitions* and access to the current month's issue of *Transitions*. *Transitions* will continue to be issued as a paper document and will be added to DTA Online each month.

FYI

Completion of Disability Evaluation Services (DES) Medical Release Forms

Medical release forms, currently part of the TAFDC and EAEDC Disability Supplement form, are completed when an individual makes a disability claim. There have been issues with the way the release forms are completed by applicants and recipients, as well as, AU Managers' ensuring forms are properly completed. As a result, DES has clarified for DTA what is needed to properly complete these forms.

When a doctor or other medical provider works for a hospital or clinic, DES will accept medical release forms with the name of the specific doctor providing treatment on the first line of Section II of the release form, and the name and address of the hospital or clinic with which that doctor is affiliated on the address line that follows. There needs to be separate signed release forms for ***each provider named and each affiliated hospital or clinic***.

Note: An attempt should be made by the AU Manager to contact the individual to complete additional medical release forms when necessary.

The incorrect completion of medical release forms or the receipt of an insufficient number of signed release forms should not delay processing an applicant's or recipient's disability claim, or the re-opening of a closed AU, if all other eligibility factors are met. A TAFDC individual may still be eligible as a nonexempt AP or eligible as an exempt AP for a reason other than "Disability". In addition, AU Managers must explore the possibility of a presumptive TAFDC exemption found in 106 CMR 203.530 (F).

