

From the Hotline

If you have any questions on this column or other policy and procedural material, please have your Hotline designee call the **Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478**.

The questions and answers below address issues concerning disabled clients in the TAFDC and EAEDC programs. For more information on this topic in the TAFDC Program, refer to 106 CMR 203.530. For more information on this topic in the EAEDC Program, refer to 106 CMR 320.200. Also refer to *A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON*, Chapter XIII-H.

- Q.** My EAEDC applicant is receiving MassHealth Disability benefits. Is he still required to verify his disability with a *Medical Report* and a *Disability Supplement*?
- A.** No, as long as your applicant currently has an active MassHealth disability status. Call Disability Evaluation Services at the UMass Medical School (1-800-888-3420) to verify that a disability determination has been made. If the disability determination information is complete and finds the applicant to be disabled, remember to obtain the duration start and end dates.

As long as the determination indicates that the client's disability is current and complies with the EAEDC requirements, then you do not need to require an additional *Medical Report* or *Disability Supplement* from this client. (In this situation, select "MassHealth Disability" from the Determination Source dropdown box.)

The same is true for TAFDC clients. As long as the disability determination indicates that the client's disability is current and complies with the TAFDC requirements, then you do not need to require an additional *Medical Report* or *Disability Supplement*.

- Q.** My EAEDC applicant informed me that he is currently participating in a program through the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC). Is he still required to verify his disability with a *Medical Report* and a *Disability Supplement*?
- A.** No. An EAEDC applicant or client who has verified that he is actively participating in MRC is considered to have a physical or mental disability. A *Medical Report* and a *Disability Supplement* do not need to be completed. (In this situation, select "Mass Rehab Commission" from the Determination Source dropdown box.)
- Q.** My client's EAEDC *Medical Report* has been completed and signed by her nurse practitioner. Since this type of nurse is considered a "competent medical authority," per Field Operations Memo 2009-6 and State Letter 1345, is the nurse's signature acceptable even when the disability is a mental, rather than a physical impairment?
- A.** Yes. For the TAFDC and EAEDC programs, the nurse practitioner's signature is acceptable on your client's *Medical Report* concerning either physical and/or mental impairment(s).

For more information, refer to 106 CMR 701.600(H).