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Food Stamps and Medicaid

Authorized Signature

Number: SS-IM-05-016

Issue Date: 08/15/2005

Topic: Medical Benefits

Subject: CAF SSP Medical Program Question & Answers

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees             | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging        | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): CAF SSP |

**Message:** CAF SSP medical program analysts have received requests for a "Question and Answer" document detailing the most frequently asked CAF SSP medical eligibility questions and our responses. We've provided them below.

**Notice Issue**

**Q:** Why all the "information only" comments on the QC medical reviews? I thought the computer sent medical program approval notices automatically.

**A:** It's true the OHP program 1K and 2K approval notices are sent automatically and that's what many of us are used to. However, the CM system doesn't automatically send a notice for MAA and MAF approvals. We're working on automating them, but it will take some time.

Approval notices are required by federal regulations and administrative rule (461-175-0200). Until we can get the medical approval notices automated, please add the "1C" notice to the NTCE field on the UCMS screen when approving MAA and MAF medical.

**Incarcerated Client Issues**

**Q:** You just told a co-worker to close her incarcerated clients' medical in the middle of the month. How can that be? I thought we were never, ever to close medical cases mid-month. This can't be right.

**A:** Normally we wouldn't close medical mid-month. However, clients that are

incarcerated could have their benefits closed any day of the month. Send a basic decision notice that is mailed no later than the date of the closure (461-175-0030 and 461-175-0230).

**Q:** Don't they have to be out of the household for at least 30 days before we can close? What if they're only in jail a couple days?

**A:** No, they don't have to be out of the household for 30 days before closing. Close incarcerated client's medical benefits immediately.

### **OHP Program Issues**

**Q:** Can OHP Standard clients ever get back onto Standard after being incarcerated?

**A:** If there has been a break in assistance they cannot be considered for OHP Standard. For applicants applying for medical after a break in assistance because of incarceration, if not eligible for any CAF SSP or SPD medical program, send a DHS 0462A notice.

**Q:** I'm not sure how to treat my client's earned income. He's applying for OPU. He just turned 19 and was getting OPC with his mother. He'd been working but I don't think I should count his earnings for his OHP Standard application. After all, he was 18 when he earned the money, so we shouldn't count it, right?

**A:** It counts. He may have earned it when he was 18, but he's 19 now and the earned income of 19 year olds counts for OHP-OPU.

**NOTE: It wasn't a question, but we're finding that there's a lot of confusion about 18 year olds applying for OHP medical. For OHP, an 18-year-old remains a child, even if they've already completed high school; even if they're in college.**

**Q:** I understand that we have to consider other medical programs before closing MAA or MAF medical. What about when CW removes the only eligible children from an MAA household and we don't find out about it for months? Shouldn't we immediately close the MAA medical for the parents? The change wasn't reported timely.

**A:** The parents probably assumed the CW worker would tell us.

End the medical for the children, but keep the MAA medical open for the parents while determining if the parents are eligible for other medical programs. Give them up to 45 days (unless the client has good cause per 461-115-0190) from the date you found out the children were removed by CW to establish other medical program eligibility.

If eligible for OHP-OPU, send a 10-day notice of reduction and convert to OHP-OPU the first of the month after the end of the 10-day notice period. Please don't convert to OPU in the middle of the month.

**Note:** The CM system will allow the parent(s) to remain on MAA or MAF medical even with no children on the CM case.

### **Misc. Application and Budgeting Issues**

**Q:** You told a co-worker her applicant had 3 budget months. How can there be more than one budget month?

**A:** Usually there are at least two budget months to look at and sometimes there are three. The reason is that the DOR is good for 45 days. Any month included in the 45 days could be a budget month for the medical application. If not eligible using the first possible budget month, look at the next month to see if the client is eligible using that month as the budget month and so on ("float" the budget month). The applicant still has only 45 days from the DOR (unless good cause) to provide needed eligibility verification.

**Q:** How can that work for OHP Standard? Wouldn't there be a break in assistance or do I backdate the medical?

**A:** Please don't backdate the medical. If your OHP Standard applicant is ineligible for one month, "float" the budget month to another month within the 45 days after the DOR and determine eligibility for that month (for more, see the question and answer immediately above). If eligible, even with a one-month break, they're not considered a "new eligible" for OHP Standard (461-135-1102).

Please start the OHP Standard medical when the client is eligible and don't backdate it to fill in any gaps. The CM system will allow a break in medical for OHP Standard clients as long as medical begins again within the 45 days after the DOR.

**Q:** I don't understand how I got a QC error on a case. The DOR was in October and I started the MAA medical then. Aren't we supposed to use the DOR?

**A:** Without knowing the specifics of the case, it's hard to say. But we are seeing a lot of incorrect medical start dates on the QC reviews. The most frequent issue is starting the medical on the DOR even though the family was ineligible that month because they were over income. If someone applies in October, that establishes the DOR. But if they are over income in October, deny for October medical benefits and look at November's eligibility. If eligible using the November as the budget month, start the medical November 1, not on the DOR.

### **SSNs for Newborns**

**Q:** How long does a client have to provide an SSN for an assumed eligible newborn?

**A:** The requirement to provide an SSN is postponed for one year for AEN children.

It's in rule 461-120-0230 "Postponement of SSN Requirement; EXT, FS, OHP, MAA, MAF, SAC".

**Q:** I've thought for some time that my TANF client's husband is in the household. Now the investigator has confirmed he's there. But she also got a job and went over income for MAA. Do I have to give her EXT?

**A:** No, she's not eligible for EXT. We're clarifying the rule for 1/1/06 to say that MAA/MAF clients must have been "eligible for and receiving" MAA/MAF to be eligible for EXT.

## **MMA**

**Q:** Please tell me I don't need to know about the Medicare Modernization Act.

**A:** Sorry, but it's one of those facts of life that everyone needs to know at a certain point. Information about how to sign up for an MMA trainings is available at: [http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/mma/docs/training\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/mma/docs/training_flyer.pdf)

Here's a list of a few SPD transmittals about MMA you will find helpful:

- SPD-IM-05-046 includes information on how to use the resource pad recently distributed.
- SPD-IM-05-041 describes the Low Income Subsidy program and how to refer clients to SSA or the LIS phone number (1 877-585-0007) if they have questions.
- SPD-PT-05-012 includes suggested phone scripts for explaining the Low Income Subsidy program offered through the Social Security Administration and how to refer clients.
- SPD-IM-05-056 includes an informational newsletter about MMA "MAA Matters".

SPD transmittals are available at:

<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/spd/home.htm> - transmittals

Your question not included? Let us know by e-mailing us at SSP-Policy, Medical in GroupWise, [MedSSP@DHS.state.or.us](mailto:MedSSP@DHS.state.or.us) on the internet or refer to the contact list below.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

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