



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

PT 34-15

Office of Health Services
Medical Care Programs

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Hospitals Transmittal No. 233

April 1, 2015

TO: Acute General Hospitals

FROM: *Susan J. Tucker*
Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director, Office of Health Services
Debbie Ruppert, Executive Director, Office of Eligibility Services

RE: Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Policy Updates

NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal

Maryland Medicaid launched the Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) program in October 2014. HPE allows qualified hospitals to make immediate, temporary Medicaid coverage determinations. HPE provides temporary Medical Assistance (MA), with full MA benefits, to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) populations—children, parents, single adults under 65, and pregnant women—for up to 60 days.

The Department recently hosted a policy update webinar for all hospitals participating in Maryland's HPE program. This webinar was developed based on hospital performance in the HPE program to date. Material demonstrated the Department's commitment to ensuring that participating hospitals have the necessary guidance to both improve performance and more efficiently serve Medicaid participants under HPE. The most critical material covered in the webinar concerns:

- recoupment of funds paid for applicants wrongfully enrolled in HPE;
- requirement to complete the full MA application for HPE applicants;
- suggested prescription policy for hospitals as related to HPE; and
- specialized Eligibility Verification Systems (EVS) message for HPE enrollees.

Recoupment of funds paid for applicants wrongfully enrolled in HPE

The State will recoup moneys paid to hospitals participating in the Maryland Medicaid HPE program for failure to comply with the Department's HPE eligibility determination policy. As described in training and in reference material: **income, residency, and citizenship requirements must be met for every applicant determined by the hospital to be eligible for HPE.**

In addition, HPE Workers making faulty eligibility determinations on behalf of the hospital are also subject to Departmental discipline. Workers who demonstrate insufficient understanding of eligibility policy may either require additional training or have their HPE eMedicaid portal access privileges revoked.

Requirement to complete the full MA application for HPE applicants

Both hospitals and HPE Workers are responsible for ensuring that each HPE applicant complete and submit a Maryland Health Connection (MHC) application. Submit MHC applications through the Health Benefits Exchange (HBX) via marylandhealthconnection.gov. The Department recommends submitting the MHC application immediately after the HPE application is submitted, regardless of the eligibility determination result. Implementing this procedure will improve the hospital's compliance performance. **Hospitals are reminded that the performance standard requires that 90 percent of approved HPE applicants also complete and submit the full MA application.**

To ensure due diligence, HPE Workers should record both the HBX submission confirmation number and the submission date in the HPE applicant's record as proof of full MA application submission.

Suggested prescription policy for hospitals as related to HPE

While HPE eligibility determinations are immediate, records in the Eligibility Verification System (EVS) are updated only once per day. Therefore, pharmacies checking EVS cannot fill prescriptions immediately, because HPE participants do not show in the system. To help ensure HPE participants have access to necessary medication, the Department requests that hospitals provide, when possible, take-home supplies of necessary medication. Hospitals should provide a three-day supply of medications for HPE-approved individuals. Hospitals should provide a five-day supply of medications for applicants whose HPE application is "Under Review".

Specialized Eligibility Verification Systems (EVS) message for HPE enrollees

Previously, the EVS message for HPE enrollees only stated: "Eligible for date of service." Because HPE is a special program with limited coverage spans, the Department changed the EVS message to specify an individual as an HPE enrollee. Now, the message for HPE enrollees says: "Recipient eligible. Full fee-for-service benefits: Hospital Presumptive Eligibility."

The Department will continue to work with participating hospitals to develop the HPE program in Maryland. We value feedback already received and welcome continued dialogue and insight.

For more information about HPE, visit dhmh.maryland.gov/hpe.

Submit questions about HPE to dhmh.hpe@maryland.gov.