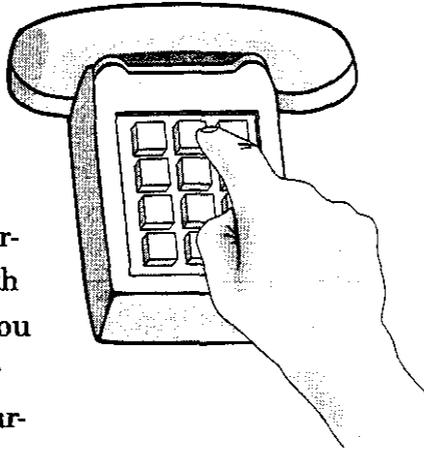


## From the Hotline...

**q:** What should I do with medical information received on an EAEDC or a TAFDC case which is pending an appeal because United HealthCare found the recipient not to be disabled? If a hearing has already been scheduled, should I tell the recipient just to bring the information to the hearing?

**a:** If a recipient has medical treatment records which pertain to the appeal which is pending, you should always forward the information to the Disability Review Unit (DRU) immediately. Moreover, should the recipient inform you that he or she has medical treatment records, encourage him or her to provide you with the information immediately so you can forward it to the DRU, rather than waiting to bring it to the hearing.



**q:** If a woman in her last four months of pregnancy is reapplying for assistance, do we consider her baby a family cap baby if the case was in a TMA status on PACES as of 11/1/95?

**a:** No, this baby would not be considered a family cap baby, because the case was not receiving cash assistance as of 11/1/95.

**q:** A household consists of a woman, her child from a previous relationship, her boyfriend and their common child. The woman receives TAFDC for herself and her child. The boyfriend is working and neither he nor his child receives assistance. May the woman receive child care benefits for the common child if she is working?

**a:** No, because the common child does not meet the requirements of 106 CMR 207.210 (A) (2) (a). The family may be eligible for income-eligible child care.

**Q:** I am sanctioning a recipient for failing to comply with a cash program requirement. As a result of the sanction, the case is

going to close. How much income do I enter to ensure that the food stamps don't increase as a result of the sanction?

**A:** For each sanctioned recipient without earned income, you must enter \$86.00 as Type FS income on Line 20 FIW2 section of the PACES Worksheet.

For each sanctioned recipient with earned income, you must enter \$86.00 plus any earnings up to \$90.00 as Type FS income on Line 20 FIW2 section of the PACES Worksheet.

If two or more persons are subject to a sanction in the same case, enter the appropriate amounts of Type FS income for each sanctioned individual when the case closes.

See Field Operations Memo 96-32.

**Q:** I sanctioned a teen parent for failure to go to school and am now ready to close the case for AR 79. Do I enter Type FS income for both the teen parent and her child since this is a progressive sanction?

**A:** No, enter \$86.00 for the sanctioned teen parent only.

The Type FS income follows the sanctioned household member(s) so that the food stamp allotment does not increase as a result of the cash program penalty.

*Note:* The entry of this income is not intended to decrease the food stamp allotment.

**q:** Can vitamins be allowed as a medical expense and used to determine the food stamp medical deduction?

**a:** Vitamins (prescription or over-the-counter) that are prescribed by a qualified, licensed health professional are an allowable medical expense and may be used to determine the Medical Deduction of a qualifying household member.

However, nutritional supplements would not be allowed since they are foods purchasable with food stamps, whereas vitamins are not.

**q:** Because of Public Law 103-296, retroactive SSI/SSA payments based on Drug Addiction or Alcoholism (DAA) must be paid in installments depending on the amount due. How are these installment payments counted for food stamps?

Installments made for two or more months are counted as income in the month received. They cannot be excluded as nonrecurring lump-sum payments. A notice from SSA will be provided to recipients indicating whether one or more installments will be issued, the date and amount of the first installment, and when installments will end.

Single, lump-sum retroactive payments, however, would be excluded as nonrecurring lump-sum payments.

**q:** Is it acceptable for a relative or friend to sign the medical authorization (page 2) on a TAFDC Medical Supplement (TAFDC/Med-Supp) on behalf of a recipient? The form states "Signature of patient or person authorized to act on his or her behalf." In the past, when I have submitted a Medical Supplement signed by someone other than the recipient, the supplement has been rejected by United HealthCare.

**a:** Page two of the TAFDC Medical Supplement is a medical authorization, and as such can only be signed by the recipient or someone who has power of attorney for the recipient. In the latter cases, the documentation of power of attorney must be attached to the Medical Supplement. Since this authorization allows a medical provider to release confidential medical information regarding the recipient, including such sensitive material as mental health records, and verification of HIV status, medical providers will only accept the signature of the recipient or the or the person who has the recipient's power of attorney.

