



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
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FAX 95-101

William F. Weld
Governor
Argeo Paul Cellucci
Lieutenant Governor

Field Operations Memo 95-39
November 6, 1995

Gerald Whitburn
Secretary
Joseph Gallant
Commissioner

TO: Local Office Staff
FROM: Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
RE: Referral of Disability Claims To HealthPro

Background

The Department recently entered into a contract with HealthPro to complete disability determinations for the TAFDC program. Applicants or recipients who claim to be exempt due to a disability, or claim to be eligible for TAFDC due to an incapacity must be referred to HealthPro for a disability determination unless they are recipients of SSI, Social Security Disability or MA/DA. The medical standards HealthPro will use for TAFDC are similar to EAEDC medical standards. However, for TAFDC households, the disability must have lasted or be expected to last for 30 days (not 60 days as with EAEDC).

More importantly, although HealthPro will now be under contract to complete disability determinations for both the TAFDC and the EAEDC programs, the disability review process is different for the two programs. The EAEDC disability determination process will remain unchanged -- i.e. an applicant or recipient must take an EAEDC Medical Report to a physician who must certify that the applicant or recipient has a disability which has lasted, or is expected to last for 60 days and that the disability meets or is equivalent to the EAEDC medical standards. This is then forwarded to HealthPro to initiate the EAEDC disability determination process.

In contrast, a TAFDC applicant or recipient will **not** take a medical report to a physician prior to his or her referral to HealthPro. Instead, the applicant or recipient will complete a TAFDC Disability Supplement, identifying the nature of his or her disability, and any treating sources. Workers should assist the applicant or recipient, when asked, by explaining the supplement and how to complete it. The Disability Supplement must then be forwarded to HealthPro to begin the disability determination process for TAFDC.

**Background
(continued)**

As you know, under welfare reform, the Department is required to have an AFDC Control Group. The disability determination process for two-parent households applying for AFDC due to incapacity will remain the same as it currently is for AFDC cases. The applicant or recipient will have the Medical Report completed by his or her physician, and return this form to his or her worker. If the physician certifies that the applicant or recipient is disabled, the AFDC disability determination process is complete.

**Batching the
Forms**

Although both the EAEDC Medical Report and the TAFDC Disability Supplement must be forwarded to HealthPro by the local office worker, EAEDC forms and TAFDC forms must be batched separately and mailed to different post office boxes. This memo identifies both addresses, and other program distinctions.

**Mailing
Addresses**

TAFDC: HealthPro/United HealthCare Corp.
P.O. Box 5112
Westborough, MA 01581

EAEDC: HealthPro/United HealthCare Corp.
P.O. Box 5086
Westborough, MA 01581

AFDC Control Group: **Not Applicable**

Toll Free Number

EAEDC: 1-800-851-2681

TAFDC: (Same as above.)

AFDC Control Group: **Not Applicable**

Batching Sheets

EAEDC: Continue to use the transmittal or batching sheet used in the past.

TAFDC: Use the same kind of sheet used for EAEDC.

Reminder

If a TAFDC Disability Supplement is being sent to HealthPro, be sure to give the applicant or recipient a temporary MassHealth card before sending the Disability Supplement to HealthPro unless the applicant or recipient has a MassHealth card.

Questions

If you have any questions, have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at (617) 348-8478.
