


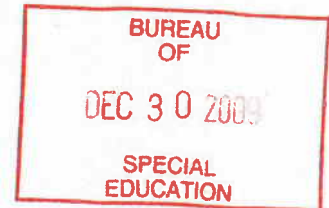
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

DEC 28 2009

SUBJECT: Impact of School Based-ACCESS Program Services on Medical Assistance Services

TO: John J. Tommasini, Director
Bureau of Special Education
Department of Education

FROM: 
Leesa M. Allen, Director
Bureau of Policy, Budget and Planning
Department of Public Welfare



This memorandum is to address the concerns some parents have regarding the impact of School Based-ACCESS Program (SBAP) services on the Medical Assistance (MA) Program services their child receives outside the school setting. We understand parents are being advised by parties in the community that their child's MA services will discontinue if they sign the parental notification form and allow the school entity to bill the MA Program for SBAP services. It is also our understanding that parents are being told that the SBAP services their child receives will count toward a "cap" or limit on the services they may receive under the MA Program. Staff from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and school district personnel indicated that this misinformation has led to many parents refusing to sign the parental notification form to allow the schools to bill the MA Program for their child's SBAP services.

The health related services a student receives through the SBAP are separate and apart from the MA services a child receives outside of the school setting. SBAP services are health care services that are rendered by professional staff employed or contracted by the school entity to perform health care services as identified on the Individual Education Plan (IEP) to children who are MA eligible recipients. The scope and duration of the SBAP services are clearly identified on the IEP and authorized as determined to be medically necessary by a practitioner. The medically necessary MA services that are provided to the MA-eligible child outside of the school setting have a separate scope and duration than those SBAP services performed by the school personnel or contractor. Both types of services are billed through the MA Program for payment of service.

Additionally, there is no "cap" or limit on the total amount of money that may be paid by the MA Program for SBAP services or MA services that the MA-eligible child may receive. The MA Program does not impose MA benefit "caps" or limits on covered services provided to MA eligible children. Based on federal Medicaid law, MA eligible children are eligible for all medically necessary services.

Please keep in mind that a parent still has the right to refuse to sign the parental notification and to not allow the school entity to bill the MA Program for SBAP services.

We hope this information provided to you assists the Department of Education in carrying out the SBAP program.



Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 Information on Obtaining Medical Assistance for a child under 21 years old

Why Medical Assistance (MA):

If you are the guardian of a child with a learning, physical, or mental health disability, it may be financially overwhelming to find the means to pay for medical bills or necessities. Medical Assistance is a health insurance program for children who are disabled or are from low-income families. Children who are considered disabled by the state can apply for medical assistance, regardless of family income through the "loophole".

A child with a disability may have MA and private insurance such as a parent/guardian's insurance obtained through their workplace. The MA will serve as a secondary insurance if the parent/guardian has private insurance. If MA is the child's only medical coverage, the family can use MA to pay for diapers (if the child is over six), the dentist, the eye doctor, prescriptions, related therapies, as well as public mental health services. **There are no annual or lifetime caps that are often imposed by other insurance plans.** It includes services that are rarely covered by employer provided insurance such as the following:

- Mental health wraparound services-certain wraparound services can only be obtained through Medical Assistance
- Family based services
- Shift nursing (8 hours or more per day)
- In-home personal care services
- Diapers
- Nutritional supplements
- Prescriptions
- Transportation to and from medical appointments
- Hearing aids
- In-home nursing
- Physical therapy
- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy

Upon receiving official documentation of a disability, the process to apply for medical assistance begins. The process starts at your local assistance office. MA is available for any disabled child, despite the income of the guardian. However, if a child receives survival benefits they may not be eligible for the program.

Will my child qualify?

Children with disabilities may qualify for Medical Assistance, regardless of their parent's income. Here are some basic rules:

- A child can qualify for Medical Assistance even if they have other health insurance (private insurance is typically billed first)
- The income/assets of the parents/guardians does not count in determining eligibility for Medical Assistance if the child's condition meets certain disability standards. The income of the parents/guardians still must be verified.

Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22
Information on Obtaining Medical Assistance for a child under 21 years old

Application Process for Medical Assistance after applying for SSI

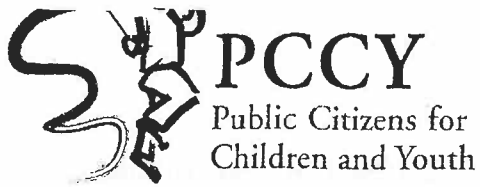
1. Fill out the "Application for Health Care Coverage" – form PA600CH – it may be accessed online at www.humanservices.state.pa.us/compass
2. Fill out the "Report of Physical/Mental Examination" – form PA586
3. Assemble the following documentation:
 - Child's social security card (or a receipt that an application has been filed)
 - Child's birth certificate (not a photocopy) or an equivalent alternative (passport, etc.)
 - For non-citizens, proof of immigration status such as an alien registration card
 - Proof of address (driver's license, utility bill, etc.)
 - Front and back copy of any other health insurance for the child (Personal Choice, Delta Dental, Vision coverage, etc.)
 - Verification of income the child receives in his/her name (child support, social security benefits, etc.), as well as, caregiver income information for the previous 30 days
 - Recent medical information from a physician, which includes diagnosis, prognosis, treatment plan, and any medications. If your child is school age, a current IEP (Individualized Education Plan) is needed. An IEP alone is not sufficient. Any reports that list your child's diagnosis, symptoms and how these symptoms affect your child's daily life. How long these symptoms are expected to last, and how these symptoms limit your child's ability to function. Any reports from therapists and counselors documenting your child's limitations in motor skills, communication skills, concentration, task persistence, and personal and social skills
4. Consider hand-delivering the application (even those filled out on the computer) to one of the addresses below:

Bucks County Assistance Office
Bucks County Office Center
1214 New Rodgers Rd
Bristol, PA 19007-2593
215-781-3300 or toll free 1-800-362-1291

5. For assistance in completing the MA application you may call or visit the Free Clinic of Doylestown located on the first floor of the Doylestown Hospital.

Free Clinic of Doylestown-Doylestown Hospital
1-800-462-0819 Select option #2 and then ask to speak to someone about MA
Monday through Friday 9 am to 4 pm

For further assistance, you may call the Medical Assistance hotline
1-800-842-2020



Tel: 215-563-5848
Fax: 215-563-9442
www.pccy.org

Seven Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Sixth Floor
Philadelphia, Pa 19103

CHILD HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT M A FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (PH95)

This Medical Assistance category is important because many services, such as school based behavior health or hearing aids, are only covered by MA insurance. While private insurance and CHIP provide a child with some mental health/ behavioral health benefits, in many cases, it will be desirable to apply for PH 95 Medical Assistance for students in your school.

1. Children with disabilities that meet the SSI standard of “unable to engage in substantial gainful activity because of a physical or mental disability,” are eligible for this program. This includes children who have diagnoses such as ADHD, ADD, ODD, Bipolar disorder, depression, Asperger’s or autism.
2. The income of their parent/guardian is not counted and does not affect the child’s eligibility. Income to the parents/guardians and to the child him/herself must be reported on the application form. Document that show income, such as paystubs, award letters, income tax forms or letters from an employer must accompany the application.
3. The child’s income from SSI (as a result of a parent’s retirement, disability or death (survivor benefit)) does not count and does not disqualify the child from eligibility. A small income from a minor part- time job does not either. Only if the child gets more than \$851 a month from some other source, is it considered in figuring his/her eligibility for this program.
4. The child’s disability must be documented, in a very specific fashion;
 - A. The evaluation must be written
 - B. The evaluation must have been performed recently (usually within 3 months)
 - C. The evaluation must be done by a licensed clinician. If the disability is behavioral this is usually a psychologist or psychiatrist.
 - D. The evaluation should answer certain questions.
 - i. What is the child’s diagnosis?
 - ii. How is this diagnosis disabling to the child?
 - iii. What are treatment recommendations?
 - E. For behavioral health evaluations it is a good sign if the evaluation addresses Axis I – V.
5. The application must include evidence that the client has applied for, or was turned down by SSI because their income is over the SSI limits. This can be confirmation of a phone intake interview, a report on the phone conversation, or a letter of denial for income.

How to prepare a PH95 MA application

This application should be prepared the same as any other MA application with a few special added features.

1. Write on the cover of the application in red, "MA Disabled Child – Category PH95."
2. On page 4, Section II "Please list the people who live with you," draw a box around the name of the child for whom you are applying. Put an asterisk next to that child's name. Below the list of individuals in the household, write the asterisk again and then write "MA Disabled Child – Category PH95", in red ink to make it stand out.
3. On page 5, Section III "Income and Expenses," after you have filled in the information for all the individuals in the household with income, write the following in a blank spot on the grid:

Parental income not considered in financial determination of MA Eligibility for PH95. Child's income from court ordered child support or social security is also disregarded. See MAEH Section 305, Appendix C-95 and OPS070102.

4. On page 7, Section V "Special Qualifying Information," fill in the middle box with the name of the child with the disability and give their main diagnosis. In red ink, draw a box around that section and write "See attached documentation of disability."
5. Make sure you include a copy of the documentation of disability, and the letter showing proof of SSI application or SSI denial for income along with the other documents required for a regular MA application.



PCCY
Public Citizens for
Children and Youth

Tel: 215-563-5848
Fax: 215-563-9442
www.pccy.org

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Getting Your SSI Documents For Your MA Application

- Step 1. Call the Social Security Administration at 1-800- 772-1213
- Step 2. When you get a person on the phone, ask for a date for a telephone interview to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for your child.
- Step 3. When they give you a date, ask for a letter, in writing, confirming your date to apply for SSI. Ask what other information and documents you will need for that interview.

OR

The agent on the phone might ask a few income questions. He/she might guess that you will not be eligible for SSI and suggest you not go ahead and apply. You have the right to apply if you want to anyway, but if you choose not to go forward with the claim, you should ask for an “informal denial” letter in writing.

OR

If the agent says that they cannot send out a letter confirming your appointment, wait till your interview and make sure the agent sends you an “Application Summary” in writing.

- Step 4. About a week later, you should get a letter in the mail.

This letter can be submitted with the other documents required when applying for Medical assistance for a child with a disability under PH95.

If you are approved for SSI, your child will automatically be enrolled in MA, but the approval process for SSI may take several months. If that seems to be the case for your child, you may want to go ahead and apply for MA anyway.

If you are denied SSI because your income is over their guidelines, you may still be eligible for MA for a child with a disability, because the MA coverage is not based on your income.

If you are denied SSI because your child was not found to be disabled according to their definition, you may not be eligible for MA under this program. However, you may be eligible for other free or low-cost insurance. Don't give up!



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Some Important Phone Numbers in Applying for Medical Assistance and Getting Information About a Child's Medical Assistance

1. **State-wide toll-free Hotline (PA Dept of Health) - 800-986-KIDS**
2. **PCCY Child Health watch Helpline – 215-563-5848 x 17**
3. **Bucks County Assistance Office**

Bucks CAO Intake Unit
1214 New Rodgers Road
Bristol, PA 19007-2593
4. **State-wide Call/Change Center – 1/877-395-8930**
5. **Health Choices – to choose or change your MA HMO – 1/200-440-3989**



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What Documents Do I Need To Send With My Application?

For everyone applying to be covered by Medical Assistance or CHIP you need:

1. Proof of all income for everyone in the household
 - copy of a pay stubs (one for each job no more; than 6 weeks old)
 - copy of a tax return if you are self-employed
 - copy of a letter from your employer if you are paid in cash
 - copy of a letter from someone who supports you, if you have no income
 - copy of a "benefit award letter" if you get child support, unemployment, TANF, social security, SSI, etc.

For everyone applying to be covered by Medical Assistance (by income, as Guardian/KinCare MA, or MA for a child with a disability) you need:

2. Proof of citizenship or immigration status
 - copy of a birth certificate
 - copy of a "green" card - Legal Permanent Resident card
 - copy of a U.S. passport
 - Proof of refugee, asylee or other "qualified" immigration status
3. Proof of identity
 - copy of government issued photo ID card (driver's license, state ID card, school-issued photo ID card)
 - copy of a school record (such as a report card, or letter on school letterhead)
 - Signed affidavit

(OVER)

*4. Proof of Residence *No longer Required*

- Copy of utility bill
- Copy of lease
- Letter from person who rents to you or with whom you stay
- Mailing envelope addressed to you at the stated address

5. Authorization for Release of Information (Form PA 4)

- Signed and witnessed - no need to notarize

For everyone applying to be covered by Medical Assistance for a Child with a Disability (PH95), you need:

- Documentation of your child's disability - a report or evaluation done by a licensed clinician within the last 3 months or so that states the child's diagnosis explains how the diagnosis is disabling to the child and gives treatment recommendations. For a behavioral health disability, it is best if the evaluation has an "Axis I" diagnosis.
- A letter from the Social Security Administration that proves you have either begun the process of applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for the child (letter that confirms an appointment to apply), that you are in the middle of applying and awaiting the result of your application (application summary), or that you have been denied SSI for your child based on your household income.

