



PROVIDER QUICK TIPS

#252

Medical Assistance Benefits for Beneficiaries Turning 21 During the COVID-19 Emergency

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (Pub. L. 116-127) provides for enhanced federal financial participation (FMAP) for states that meet certain requirements, including maintaining benefits for beneficiaries.

Based on federal guidance regarding the maintenance of benefit requirements, the Medical Assistance (MA) Program continued the same scope of benefits for MA beneficiaries who turned 21 on or after March 18, 2020 as those benefits provided to MA beneficiaries under 21 years of age. This applied to beneficiaries who received services in MA Fee-for-Service and Physical Health (PH) and Behavioral Health (BH) HealthChoices.

Although MA beneficiaries who turned 21 on or after March 18, 2020, were moved from the child benefit package (HCB 01) to the adult benefit package (HCB 50), PROMISE™ was updated to ensure services covered under HCB 01 would continue to pay for those beneficiaries who turned 21 that were moved to HCB 50.

On November 28, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued regulations at 42 CFR § 433.400 that reinterpret the conditions under which states claiming the temporary FMAP increase must maintain benefits.

On February 1, 2021, the Department will restore HCB 50 to the adult scope of benefits in place prior to March 18, 2020, consistent with 42 CFR § 433.400. As a result, beneficiaries who turned 21 on or after March 18, 2020 will no longer be eligible for the benefits provided under the children's benefit package.

MCOs will assist these MA beneficiaries as they transition to the adult benefit scope of benefits. Providers rendering services in PH and BH HealthChoices should contact the applicable managed care organization with any billing questions.

Information on MA Program coverage related to COVID-19 can be found on the DHS website here.

The Department of Health has a dedicated page for COVID-19 that provides regular updates. Click here for the most up to date information regarding COVID-19.

Thank you for your service to our MA beneficiaries.

We value your participation.

Check the DHS' website often at: www.dhs.pa.gov

