



## MAY MEETING NOTES

May 29, 2020

### Tips to Get Real Time Eligibility Determinations in PEAK:

- There are some questions on the PEAK application that are required for Medical Assistance (MA), but not for Food Assistance. Since the Food Assistance hierarchy trumps that of MA in the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS), these questions may not be required and an application could be submitted without answers, resulting in lower rates of RTE. Food Assistance applications can be submitted with name, address, and signature only to promote an ease of access to the program. Therefore, applicants for both Food and MA, may miss a question that is necessary to receive RTE for MA.
- PEAK Outreach suggests applying for Food Assistance at the end of an MA application. Questions for Food Assistance are available on the last page, ensuring that the applicant has answered all required fields. Including some form of contact information (ex. phone number, email) is also helpful in speeding up an application's processing time so the County can easily contact the applicant for their Food Assistance interview. In addition, a current member can apply for Food Assistance through the Report Changes section under Manage My Account.
- A walk through of the Food Assistance application is available on the [Peak Outreach website](#), under the training resources and presentations section.

### Emergency Medicaid:

- There is a new opportunity to apply for Emergency Medicaid using PEAK. People without proper documentation can answer a life or limb threatening question that allows them to be assessed for Emergency Medicaid. This question is available on the Citizenship page and asks if the applicant had life or limb emergency in past four months. Applicants typically need to provide proof of the emergency services, such as written statement from a physician.
- Emergency Medicaid applicants in other statuses should continue to apply via paper application.
- For COVID-19, Emergency Medicaid will cover: inpatient hospital admissions and outpatient care following a hospital admission such as, follow up COVID-19 testing; two primary care visits, in person or via telemedicine; and oxygen and other respiratory therapy or non-invasive ventilation or supplemental oxygen provided by positive or negative pressure, without intubation.
- Updated information is available in CKF's [COVID-19 Policy and Program Updates for Health Coverage Programs](#) publication.

### COVID-19 Limited Testing Benefit:

- This benefit is available 90 days after testing. Tests before the public health emergency began on March 18, 2020, are not eligible for this benefit.



- Application for this benefit is available in Worksheet J of the Medical Assistance Application, it is not included on the Single Purpose Application. These questions are also included as part of the PEAK application. Worksheet J was initially included in the application and as a standalone worksheet; however, HCPF's legal department indicated that it should not be separate from the application.
- People denied for MA on PEAK before the questions were added on April 12 may add the benefit through Report My Changes and indicate want to apply for benefit.
- Previous versions of the paper application are not outdated and will continue to be accepted at this time.

### **Healthy Communities:**

- Due to the state budget crisis, the Joint Budget Committee has cut funding for the Healthy Communities program. The Healthy Communities program will end on June 30, 2020. As a result, the Accountable Care Collaborative's Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs) will take over some of the functions of Healthy Communities.
- A contract team is working on a plan on how to share information about the program and will release this once the details have been approved. Anticipate this in around two weeks.
- Jeff Helm joined the meeting to express his gratitude to the Healthy Communities staff for their passion and dedication and explained that information will be forthcoming once the new contracts are finalized.

### **Medical Assistance Site Pilot Project:**

- HCPF completed a pilot of PEAKPro with two existing Medical Assistance (MA) sites. The pilot identified areas of improvement that HCPF will be implementing, specifically for Long Term Care and Medicaid Buy-In programs. HCPF is still working on the MA site changes, but it not prioritized at the moment due to COVID-19.

### **Phone Applications:**

- Currently, CMAP (Denver Health) and Connect for Health Colorado are the only organizations that take applications by phone. HCPF is working with some counties and an MA site to look at the feasibility of phone applications in other locations.
- If the information on a person's application indicates that they are eligible for the Medicaid Buy-In program, they will be enrolled in that program. Applicants who indicate that they have a disability, will be sent a disability applicant after submitting the MA application, which will be determined by Social Security or the state contractor, ARG.