

Policy Clarifications
Medical Assistance – MAWD
PMW-20084-316

Submitted: July 30, 2020

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) Premiums Must Not Be Increased During the COVID-19 Emergency Beginning January 1, 2020

Question: Can MAWD premiums be increased during the coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency?

Response By: Division of Health Services

Date: August 3, 2020

No. On June 30, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provided guidance in *COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for State Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Agencies* that Section 6008(b)(2) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) requires states to maintain premiums at the same or lower premium amount as determined on or after January 1, 2020 through the last month of the calendar quarter of the COVID-19 emergency.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) will carry out CMS's guidance by taking the following actions:

1. System updates will be made on August 22, 2020:
 - Individuals who have had their premium increase since January 1, 2020 will have their premium changed back to the lower amount in Electronic Client Information System (eCIS) MAWD Premium Tracking and on the MAWD Payments Due/Payment History Search Website at <http://dhhsintra.dpw.state.pa.us/MAWD/>. An auto case comment will be entered.
 - Case Processing (CP) will no longer allow MAWD premiums to increase for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

2. Individuals who have had their premium increase since January 1, 2020 will be mailed a letter (See Attachment) to inform them that their premium will be changed back to the lower amount effective the month of the change and that they will receive credit or a refund.

No manual actions will need to be taken by the County Assistance Office (CAO).

ATTACHMENT:

[MAWD Premium Reduction Letter](#)