



**State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
Secretary Kitty Rhoades
1 West Wilson Street
P.O. Box 7850
Madison, WI 53707-7850
Telephone: (608) 266-9622
FAX: (608) 266-7882
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov

**TO: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators**

**FROM: Shawn Smith, Bureau Director
Bureau of Enrollment Policy & Systems
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability**

DHS OPERATIONS MEMO

No: DHS 14-45

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FS	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BC+	<input type="checkbox"/>
SC	<input type="checkbox"/>	CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBJECT: Wisconsin's 2013 Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control Project

CROSS REFERENCE: IM County Contracts

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

PURPOSE:

This memo provides local Income Maintenance (IM) agencies with information about the 2013 Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control (MEQC) project and expectations for local IM agency cooperation.

BACKGROUND:

States are required by federal regulations to conduct annual Medicaid (MA) quality control projects. States can choose whether to sample from the entire MA population, or conduct special studies that focus on a specific group of MA recipients. MEQC evaluations are an important source of information for program improvement efforts.

For the past several years, Wisconsin has conducted special studies that focus on a particular coverage group, policy or process rather than a broad quality control review of the entire MA population. For FFY 2013, Wisconsin is proposing to review Elderly, Blind or Disabled (EBD) Medicaid applications and determine if undisclosed assets were identified by the Asset Verification System (AVS) and whether or not workers took

appropriate action based on the information in AVS. Additionally, the project will evaluate the effectiveness of the AVS matches and its impact on eligibility for EBD Medicaid eligibility. The time period of the sample will be cases from October 2012 through September 2013.

POLICY:

PROJECT GOALS

The goals of the 2013 MEQC project are to:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of Wisconsin's AVS in EBD eligibility determinations;
- Identify error prone elements in the AVS;
- Evaluate the accuracy of terminations for EBD cases that exceed asset limits to determine if individuals are being properly terminated from Medicaid benefits and if the AVS provided information that contributed to that termination;
- Identify error prone elements in the terminations of EBD Medicaid benefits; and
- Develop corrective action strategies for the efficient use of Wisconsin's AVS in eligibility determinations.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

A review of eligibility determinations will entail verifying that the IM workers in the certifying agency entered cases into the AVS and that the information returned by the AVS was accurate and properly used by the certifying agency for all cases selected in the sample. For cases selected that were not set up in the AVS, MEQC staff will contact the IM agency quality control lead and backup instructing them to enter the case into the AVS. The MEQC staff will review the matches after one quarter to determine the impact the AVS would have had on those cases.

The methods utilized to accomplish our evaluation goals include case reviews of EBD MA recipients and the eligibility workers who manage EBD MA cases.

Active Study

A random sample of 600 cases for which benefits were approved for EBD Medicaid will be drawn from the universe of open EBD cases. The evaluation will include a review of the assets of these eligible individuals comparing self-reported asset information to information and results from the AVS to determine any impact on eligibility the match may have had.

If a discrepancy affecting past, current or future eligibility exists additional information will be sought from the member or third party sources. If it is determined through the review process that a Medicaid member was ineligible for benefits or contributing an incorrect amount toward his/her cost of care the local agency will be notified and corrective action will be required.

Negative Study

For the negative cases, Wisconsin will determine the accuracy of terminations of EBD Medicaid benefits for individuals that were terminated for being over the asset limit. A random sample of 200 terminated EBD Medicaid cases will be reviewed to determine if those individuals were terminated properly. The data collected from these reviews will be used to evaluate the accuracy of case processing, the validity of the information from the AVS, and to develop corrective action strategies if needed.

PROCESS

The Department of Health Services (DHS) MEQC unit will be conducting the project case reviews from October 2014 through September 2015.

FINDINGS

The MEQC contact will be notified of the results of the QA review. If the eligibility determination is considered to be correct, no further action is needed. If a potential eligibility error is identified, the agency will be contacted with specific findings.

CONTACTS:

BEPS MAQC

*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – SeniorCare, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training.

DHS/DHCAA/BEPS/MB