



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: 06-20

Effective Date: November 1, 2005

Issuance Date: October 26, 2005

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF
HEALTH OFFICERS, LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOSEPH DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DHMH, OOE**

**RE: REVISIONS TO HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEE MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE/MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM
PROCEDURES**

PROGRAMS AFFECTED: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND MCHP PROGRAMS

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY

This action transmittal expands the policy provided in 06-15, issued September 15, 2005. It does not replace it. For the evacuees who come to Maryland for help, our main goal continues to be assisting them with food, shelter and medical care.

Effective November 1, 2005, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Waiver policy requires that Medical Assistance/Maryland Children's Health Program (MA/MCHP) **applications continue to be taken for Hurricane Katrina evacuees through January 31, 2006** following existing procedures outlined in FIA AT# 06-15. Additionally, to comply with the Waiver, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) will provide Medical Assistance coverage for a total of 5-months from the month of application.

This transmittal issues procedures for Hurricane Katrina evacuees based on the new guidelines. The **maximum certification period** for evacuees who apply for MA/MCHP as of November 1, 2005, under these special circumstances is **changed from 4 to 5 months**.

Any MA/MCHP application received and finalized through October 31, 2005 will continue to receive the 4-month maximum certification period identified in FIA AT# 06-15.

MA/MCHP REDETERMINATIONS for existing Hurricane Katrina recipients:

When a person who is currently certified on CARES as an X01, or under a Federal Category of MA/MCHP (excluding TCA F01), related to Hurricane Katrina returns the redetermination packet or reports a change in circumstances the case manager must now follow existing redetermination/interim change procedures based on Federal regulations. To ensure accurate certification, pend the customer in CARES with a new MA/MCHP coverage group other than X01. When completing the change in circumstances, verify all technical (i.e. residency, citizenship) and financial eligibility (i.e. resources, income) requirements. Always ensure that correct notification is sent for any change, including new certification periods. **DO NOT certify any redetermined recipients under X01 State Funded coverage.**

TCA (F01) REDETERMINATIONS for existing Hurricane Katrina recipients:

When a person who is currently certified on CARES as a TCA (F01) recipient related to Hurricane Katrina returns a redetermination packet or reports a change in circumstances, the case manager must now follow existing redetermination/interim change procedures based on Federal regulations. To ensure accurate certification, verify all technical and financial eligibility requirements. If the recipient continues to be eligible for TCA (F01) coverage, the case manager must complete and fax a DHMH 8001 C-TAD to DHMH On-line to update MMIS. This is necessary because all Hurricane Katrina F01 recipients were converted from the F01 coverage group to an X01 coverage group due to problems associated with Managed Care Organization (MCO) enrollment. Faxing a CTAD will allow for manual update of screen 1 on MMIS and allow the recipient enrollment into a MCO.

CARES “HK” CODING REMINDERS:

Identify customers applying for TCA, MA or MCHP and who are processed as Hurricane Katrina evacuees by entering “HK” in the Special Circumstances field on the ADDR screen. It is essential that you add this code so that we can track the evacuees for federal reporting and so that DHMH can identify Hurricane Katrina MA/MCHP recipients. Continue to enter a current Maryland address in the mailing address fields, and update the narrative to reflect the Hurricane Katrina evacuee’s eligibility process.

Please enter AL for Alabama, FL for Florida, LA for Louisiana, or MS for Mississippi in the **State of Birth** field on the CARES **DEM1** screen. This will give case managers the information they need if they must call the state to get information, and will allow DHMH to report the “home” state on the federal reports.

Effective November 1, 2005, if the recipient intends to remain in Maryland, after the 5-month period, there will be a full redetermination for a federal MA or MCHP coverage category, including review and verification of all technical and financial eligibility requirements (i.e. income, resources, disability, LTC look back period for asset transfers, citizenship and ownership of real property in the customer’s former home state, etc).

For clarification regarding the manner in which to process Katrina evacuee eligibility please refer to AT# 06-15.

ACTION DUE

This policy is effective upon receipt.

INQUIRIES

Please direct TCA policy questions to Marilyn Lorenzo at 410-767-7333 and direct MA/MCHP policy questions or CARES processing questions to Cathy Sturgill via e-mail at csturgil@dhr.state.md.us or at 410-238-1247

cc: DMMH Management Staff
FIA Management Staff
CSA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk