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IM-13-03

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: Aging Service Access Point (ASAP) Executive Directors

FROM: Ann L. Hartstein *ALH*

DATE: July 23, 2013

RE: Process for initial clinical eligibility for consumers identified through the Senior Care Organization as potentially eligible for the Home and Community Based Frail Elder Waiver.

Purpose:

This Information Memorandum is being issued to clarify the process for ASAPs when determining initial clinical eligibility for consumers identified through the Senior Care Organization (SCO) as potentially eligible for the Home and Community Based Frail Elder Waiver (FEW).

Background and Program Implications:

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA), in accordance with M.G.L. c. 19a, sec. 4b, retains authority for the overall management, administration, and oversight activities related to the operations of Massachusetts Home Care Program, including services provided under the 1915c Home and Community Based Services Waiver.

All consumers identified as potentially eligible for the FEW will be referred to the ASAP RN for the initial clinical determination of waiver eligibility, including those identified by a SCO who are in need of the FEW expanded income eligibility rules to qualify for MassHealth Standard in the community.

For those consumers in need of assistance with the MassHealth Senior Medical Benefit Request (SMBR) application, the SCOs have been instructed by the Office of Long Term Services & Supports (OLTSS) to offer support to the consumer during the application process.

Once the consumer is determined financially eligible for MassHealth Standard by the MassHealth Enrollment Center (MEC), the consumer must be provided the option of receiving their waiver services through a Home Care Waiver Program, SCO or other home and community based plan or program.

In addition, the ASAP must enter a SCO/FEW enrollment in SAMS. SCO/FEW enrollments identify SCO consumers who are in need of the FEW expanded income eligibility to qualify for MassHealth.

If a consumer declines enrollment in a Home Care Waiver Program or a SCO, or declines all waiver services, either the SCO or ASAP (whoever is working with the consumer) is required to submit to the MEC a Notification of Non-Participation on behalf of the consumer. The consumer must be advised that by submitting this notification their MassHealth Standard will be terminated.

The ASAP will be responsible for all documentation of the initial waiver eligibility process according to RFR Section 9.1.3.p Eligibility Determinations. The redetermination of clinical eligibility for the FEW will be conducted by the SCO, as stated in the waiver application and communicated to the SCO through the OLTSS Unit.

Effective Date:

August 1, 2013

Contact:

Questions regarding this should be directed to Mary DeRoo, Director of Home and Community Programs at mary.deroo@state.ma.us.