



OPERATIONAL MEMO

TITLE:	SELF-ATTESTATION OF INFORMATION DURING COVID -19
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DIVISION AND OFFICE:	MEDICAID OPERATIONS OFFICE
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Purpose and Audience:

The purpose for this operational memo is to provide guidance to eligibility sites on self-attestation of information to determine eligibility for Medical Assistance programs during the COVID-19 Federal public health emergency (PHE) period.

Information:

The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provided approval for the State of Colorado to make changes to current policies within the State Verification Plan related to required verifications to make an eligibility determination. The addendum to the verification plan implements the following changes to policies and procedures, which are different from the policies and procedures otherwise applied under the state's current verification plan, during the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) emergency period. These changes are consistent with applicable federal Medicaid and Child Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) eligibility verification statutory and regulatory authorities,

including but not limited to Section 1137 of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR 435.940 through 435.960 and 457.380.

Currently, for all medical assistance programs, an applicant may self-attest to the following information without following up with required verification: age or date of birth, state residency, and household composition, consistent with regulation at 42 CFR § 435.945(a). A case worker may request additional information if the information provided by the applicant is questionable. Questionable is defined as inconsistent or contradictory tangible information, statements, documents or file records.

An applicant applying for medical assistance may self-attest to identity and citizenship or immigration status based on regulation 42 CFR § 435.406, if this information can be verified electronically. If information cannot be verified electronically, the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS) will continue to request verification. The applicant will receive a reasonable opportunity period of 90 days to provide documentation when they self-attested to information.

Self-Attestation of Income, SSN and Resources for New Applications

Individuals submitting a new application during the PHE may self-attest to the following: income, Social Security Number and resources. Any other criteria needed to make an eligibility determination, other than those mentioned, will still need to be requested from the applicant.

Eligibility workers must first attempt to verify all eligibility criteria through available interfaces before approving a new application based on self-attestation. For cases that require a resource test, an eligibility worker must first use the Asset Verification Program (AVP) interface when verifying resources.

If verifications are provided by the applicant, this information must be entered in CBMS. If verifications are not provided, self-attestation is acceptable as a verification source for the following items listed age or date of birth, state residency, and household composition, consistent with regulation at 42 CFR § 435.945(a). After the PHE has ended, the Department will need to follow up with paper documentation on verifications that were self-attested.

Redeterminations

Redeterminations must still be processed as they are currently. Eligibility workers should update cases with all changes reported and verifications provided.

Eligibility workers must first attempt to verify all eligibility criteria electronically prior to approving a redetermination, including the use of AVP for any redeterminations that include an asset test. If verifications are not received, cases will continue to force-pass until the end of the PHE period. Once the PHE period has concluded, the Department will process eligibility redeterminations and/or changes for all members whose eligibility was maintained during the emergency period.

Attachment(s):

None

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