



PROVIDER QUICK TIPS

#251

Medical Assistance Benefits for Beneficiaries Turning 21 During the COVID-19 Emergency

On March 18, 2020, the President signed into law H.R. 6021, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (Pub. L. 116-127) which provides for enhanced federal financial participation for states that meet certain requirements, including maintaining benefits for beneficiaries.

Accordingly, Medical Assistance (MA) beneficiaries turning 21 on or after March 18, 2020, continue to be eligible for the same MA coverage provided to MA beneficiaries under 21 years of age until the end of the month in which the national public health emergency ends.

This requirement applies to beneficiaries who receive services in MA Fee-for-Service and Physical Health (PH) and Behavioral Health (BH) HealthChoices.

MA beneficiaries who turned 21 on or after March 18, 2020, were moved from the child benefit package (HCB 01) to the adult benefit package (HCB 50). This change is reflected in the PROMISe™ Eligibility Verification System (EVS). However, these beneficiaries continue to be eligible for the same scope of benefits they received before turning 21. This may include services that are not covered for adult beneficiaries, such as private duty shift nursing and Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS).

PROMISe™ was updated to ensure services covered under HCB 01 will continue to pay for beneficiaries who turned 21 on or after March 18, 2020, when all other billing requirements are met.

Providers rendering services in PH and BH HealthChoices should contact the applicable managed care organization with any billing questions.

Beneficiaries who turned 21 on or after March 18, 2020, will be transitioned to the benefits covered under HCB 50 that were in place prior to March 18, 2020, on the first day of the month after the national public health emergency ends. MCOs will assist these MA beneficiaries as they transition to the adult benefit scope of benefits.

Information on MA Program coverage related to COVID-19 can be found on the DHS website [here](#).

The Department of Health has a dedicated page for COVID-19 that provides regular updates. Click [here](#) for the most up to date information regarding COVID-19.

Thank you for your service to our MA recipients.
We value your participation.
Check the Department's website often at: www.dhs.pa.gov.

