



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

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SUBJECT Revised Medical Assessment Form (PA 635)	BY  James L. Hardy, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify Medical Assistance (MA) enrolled physicians, psychologists, and certified registered nurse practitioners (CRNP) that the Medical Assessment Form (PA 635) has been revised and that CRNP and physician assistants (PA) can now complete the form. A copy of the revised form is attached.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to physicians, psychologists and CRNP enrolled in the MA Program who complete the Medical Assessment Form (MA 635) for eligible MA recipients in both the Fee-for-Service (FFS) and Managed Care delivery systems.

BACKGROUND:

Individuals with disabilities on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) may be capable of participating in productive work activities and deserve an opportunity to gain skills and work experience to the extent they are able. It is important that we make every effort to engage individuals with disabilities in ways that are productive, adaptable to their needs, and that will assist them and their families to reach their highest potential.

To that end, the PA 635 has been revised to allow medical professionals to indicate how the TANF client is able to pursue self-sufficiency through employment and training services, or if he/she is a candidate for disability benefits.

DISCUSSION:

County Assistance Offices (CAO) use the PA 635 to evaluate the employability, as well as disability, of all TANF applicants/recipients who indicate that they are unable to fulfill employment and training requirements because of a physical or mental condition. The revised form has been designed to capture what activities the client is capable of doing. In addition, the current requirement that the PA 635 must be completed by a physician or psychologist has been changed. The Department will now also accept a PA 635 which has been completed by either a CRNP or a PA.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Questions should be directed to the Office of Income Maintenance's Bureau of Employment and Training Programs at (717) 787-1302.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap/

If the medical determination is that the individual is permanently disabled and can no longer work, the CAO will assist with the completion of an application for SSI.

If the medical determination is that the individual can work at some level, upon receipt of the PA 635 at the CAO, an individualized plan for self-sufficiency is developed, with the ultimate goal of helping clients achieve the highest level of self-sufficiency for themselves and their families through work. This plan may require the client to prepare for work gradually by developing better literacy skills, engaging in job-skills training, and possibly addressing the physical, psychological or social barriers that have previously prevented him/her from being successful in the workplace. To support this plan, the CAO can authorize payments for child care, transportation, clothing, equipment and other supports the individual may need to be successful. Employment and training programs will assist with placement in jobs and/or training that can accommodate the individual's special needs and requirements.

The revised PA 635 replaces the PA 635 (version 3/84). The revised PA 635 does not replace the:

- Caregiver Review Form (PA 1820)
- Employability Assessment Form (PA 1663)
- Employability Re-assessment Form (PA 1664)
- Health-Sustaining Medication Assessment Form (PA 1671)
- Report of Physical/Mental Examination (PA 586)

PROCEDURE:

Effective with the issuance of this bulletin, medical providers should be prepared to complete the revised Medical Assessment Form (PA 635) attached to this bulletin. The PA 635 may be completed by a physician, psychologist, PA, or CRNP.

Note: The MA Program cannot be billed solely for the completion of this form.

Medical providers are asked to assess an individual's employability, with consideration of what the individual can do, rather than what they can not do. Medical providers should indicate the individual's ability to perform work or participate in training, medical diagnosis and treatment plan on pages 2 and 3. Name, address and licensure information should be completed on Section III on page 3, with original signature of medical provider. The PA 635 may be mailed or faxed to the CAO.

ATTACHMENT:

- Revised Medical Assessment Form (PA 635)