



## **HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS IF YOU USED TO RECEIVE adultBasic**

Sample Letter April 2011

Dear Former adultBasic Recipient:

We are writing because you may be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance through the Medical Assistance (MA) program. MA may be an alternative to paying for health insurance, like SpecialCare. This letter explains how to apply for MA.

MA is health insurance from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW). It is available based on people's circumstances, their incomes, and, in some cases, the types of resources like bank accounts or retirement accounts they have. MA programs are available for women who are pregnant or have breast or cervical cancer, and for people who have other health problems that affect their ability to work or have a lot of medical expenses. A list of some common types of MA is at the end of this letter.

### **What to do next:**

You may apply for MA online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) or in person at your local County Assistance Office (CAO). To find your CAO, call the Statewide Customer Service Center at 1-877-395-8930. In Philadelphia, call **215-560-7226**. Once you start the application, you will have 30 days to turn in papers to complete your application.

If you have long-term health problems that affect your ability to work, the CAO may send you a two-page form for your doctor to fill out. If you have health problems but you do not get a form for your doctor, call the CAO to ask for one. This form is called the Employability Assessment Form, or PA-1663. Your doctor must fill out the form correctly and completely. For most people with income who want to receive MA, the doctor must indicate that the health problems will last for twelve months or longer.

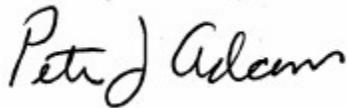
If you cannot afford to take the form to your doctor, contact your local CAO. Your caseworker may give you short-term MA that will cover a doctor's visit and related tests, so you can get the form filled out.

### **How to get help:**

To get help contacting your local CAO or to check on the status of your MA application, call DPW's Customer Service Center at the number listed above.

If you have problems completing your MA application, your MA application is denied, or you have other problems receiving MA, free help is available. You may call the Pennsylvania Health Law Project's statewide toll-free helpline at **1-800-274-3258**, or you may find free legal help in your area by contacting the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network. Visit their Web site at <http://www.palegalaid.net/resources/clients/legalhelpfinder> or call **1-800-322-7572** to find your local legal aid office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter J. Adams". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter J. Adams  
Deputy Commissioner for CHIP and adultBasic  
Pennsylvania Insurance Department

Attachment

Si necesitas ayuda para traducir esta información, por favor comuníquese con Adulto Basico al: 1-800-462-2742 estamos disponibles de Lunes a Viernes desde las 7 a.m. hasta las 7 p.m., y los Sábados desde las 9 a.m. hasta las 3 p.m., y para los usuarios del sistema TTY deberán llamar al: 1-877-232-7640.

## COMMON TYPES OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Pennsylvania offers many types of Medical Assistance (MA). People qualify for MA based on their circumstances, their incomes, and, in some cases, their countable resources like bank accounts or retirement accounts. This paper lists some common types of MA. If you believe that you may qualify for one of these MA programs, you may apply online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) or you may apply at your local County Assistance Office.

### **MA for People with Long-Term Health Problems**

Pennsylvania offers different types of MA for people with health problems that affect their ability to work. The income limit is very low for people with health problems that will last less than twelve months. The limit is higher for people with health problems that will last twelve months or longer. People who have long-term health problems but are working and receiving compensation also have a higher income limit. The resource limit varies depending on the program. To qualify, you must be receiving disability benefits from the Social Security Administration (SSA), or you must have applied for disability benefits from SSA and be waiting for a decision, or your doctor must fill out a form that confirms that you have health problems.

### **MA for Pregnant Women**

Pregnant women may qualify for MA during their pregnancy and for two months after the pregnancy ends. The income limit is higher than the income limit for adultBasic. There is no resource limit.

### **MA for Women with Breast or Cervical Cancer**

Women who need treatment because of breast or cervical cancer may be eligible for MA. The woman must be screened and diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer or pre-cancerous conditions of the breast or cervix. She may be screened and diagnosed through the Department of Health's Healthy Woman Program (HWP) or a non-HWP health care provider who then refers her to HWP. She cannot have other health care coverage. HWP has an income limit that is higher than the income limit for adultBasic. There are no MA income or resource limits. To apply, contact HWP by calling **1-800-215-7494** or by visiting [www.pahealthywoman.com](http://www.pahealthywoman.com).

### **Medically Needy Only MA**

Medically Needy Only (MNO) MA is available for three groups of people: people ages 59 through 64, people ages 21 through 64 who work 100 hours or more per month; and people with recent medical expenses. MNO MA does not cover prescription drugs. The income limit is low, but your medical expenses may be deducted from your income to meet the income limit. Medical expenses paid by the adultBasic program may be used as deductions. The resource limit is \$2,400 for single people and \$3,200 for households of two.

### **SelectPlan for Women Program**

SelectPlan for Women is a program for women ages 18 through 44 who are not pregnant or who have not had a procedure or treatment to prevent pregnancy. SelectPlan covers women's health services, including breast exams, Pap smears, other gynecological care, and related lab testing. It also covers family planning prescriptions. There are no co-pays or limits. The income limit is high and there is no resource limit. Most women who received adultBasic will qualify.