



Eligibility Operations Memo 23-08
March 2023

TO: MassHealth Eligibility Operations Staff

FROM: Heather Rossi, Director of Eligibility Policy

RE: **Updated Application for Seniors and People Needing Long-Term-Care Services (SACA-2)**

Background

MassHealth has updated the application for health benefits for seniors and people needing long-term care services. The Application for Health Coverage for Seniors and People Needing Long-Term-Care Services (SACA-2), revised March 2023, is for the following populations in Massachusetts:

- A person who is 65 years of age or older and who is living at home and
 - is not the parent of a child younger than 19 years of age who lives with the person; or
 - is not an adult relative living with and taking care of a child younger than 19 years of age when neither parent is living in the home; or
 - is disabled and is either employed 40 hours or more a month or is currently employed and has been employed for at least 240 hours in the six months immediately before the month of application; or
- a person of any age who needs long-term-care services in a medical institution or a nursing facility; or
- a person who is eligible under certain programs to get long-term care services to live at home; or
- a member of a married couple living together and
 - both spouses are applying for health coverage;
 - there are no children younger than 19 years of age living with the couple; and
 - one spouse is 65 years of age or older and the other spouse is younger than 65 years of age.

A person 65 years of age or older should complete the Application for Health and Dental Coverage and Help Paying Costs (ACA-3) if they meet any of the following exceptions. The person is

- the parent of a child younger than 19 years of age who lives with them; or
- an adult relative living with and taking care of a child younger than 19 years of age when neither parent is living in the home.

Summary of Changes

- The following changes were made in the March 2023 version of the SACA-2:
- Updated language in the “How to Apply” section.
- Added “acquired” and “derived” to Question 8 for person 1 and Question 18 for person 2. This update clarifies an individual’s citizenship status.
- Updated language in “Other Income.” This includes adding the question “How many hours per week?” for net farming and fishing.
- Updated example in “One-Time-Only Income” section.
- Removed the question “Did you receive unemployment benefits in this calendar year?” It’s no longer needed for the Health Connector program determination.
- Removed duplicative language in Step 3, “American Indian Alaskan Native,” to save space. This step now refers the reader to Supplement B, where there is detailed information.
- Added a new Step 4, “Previous Medical Bills.” Since July 1, 2022, applicants under 65 have had the option to request payment of medical bills they have incurred in the three months before they applied for MassHealth.
- Added language to the signature page regarding permission to contact members via e-mail or text message.
- Updated Supplement D and reordered questions about health plan coverage to account for both individual and family plans.
- Updated the language for teletypewriter (TTY) for MassHealth Service Center to include the broader term, TDD: “TDD/TTY:711.” If someone calling the MassHealth Customer Service Center needs a TDD/TTY connection, they can call 711.

Supplies and Use of Revised Forms

The March 2022 version of the SACA-2 will be accepted through March 31, 2024.

How to Apply

To apply, applicants can use any of the options below.

Mail the filled-out, signed application to:

Health Insurance Processing Center
PO Box 4405
Taunton, MA 02780

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Fax the filled-out, signed application to (857) 323-8300.

Call the MassHealth Customer Service Center at (800) 841-2900, TDD/TTY: 711 or the Health Connector at (800) MA ENROLL ([800 623-6765]).

Go to www.mass.gov/masshealth/appointment to make a reservation for a phone or video appointment.

The MassHealth Enrollment Centers (MECs) are open, and we encourage applicants or members to schedule an appointment. For questions, call (800) 841-2900, TDD/TTY: 711.

Location of Printable Application on the MassHealth Website

The updated Senior Application (SACA-2) can be printed from the MassHealth website. Go to www.mass.gov/lists/masshealth-member-applications.

Questions

If you have questions about this memo, please have your MEC designee contact the Policy Hotline.