

The latest on MassHealth/Free Care unified applications and eligibility

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Beginning in October, MassHealth has begun taking over the application process for free care applications under the state's Uncompensated Care Program. As more hospitals and health centers are being phased into this new unified application system, more of you have reported difficulties in getting free care approved because of problems which relate to requirements that are being inappropriately applied in free care applications when these requirements either apply only to MassHealth generally - but not the pool, or only apply to a specific MassHealth component, or in some cases are not even required by MassHealth or any of its sub-components. The bottom-line is that while more of the Free Care Applications are now being processed by MassHealth, using MassHealth's MBR form, this change to an MBR form should not result in additional criteria of eligibility being placed on pool applications

The best overall description of how the new system is supposed to work is spelled out in MassHealth's Eligibility **Operations Memo 04-12**. Unfortunately because Medicaid's new web site is somewhat hard to navigate, many of you have been unable to find it. So here's a link:

<http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/masshealth/eom2004/eom04-12.pdf>

Please note that at least for the time being seniors over age 65 will not have their pool applications processed by MassHealth using the MBR process, but should continue using the older pool only applications found at their local hospitals or health centers.

The link is also on the masslegalservices.org web site in the health folder.

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