



State Disability Evaluation for MassHealth

Disability Evaluation Services
Commonwealth Medicine
The University of Massachusetts
Medical School
Established January 1998

Today's Agenda

- Overview of Disability Evaluation Services (DES)
- The Disability Supplement
- The Disability Determination Process
- Timeline Guidelines
- How you can assist the DES



Office of Medicaid Programs

- MassHealth
- Kaileigh Mulligan
- Children's Cases
- Department of Corrections
- Boston Health Care for the Homeless

Department of Transitional Assistance Programs



- Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC)
- Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)
- Learning Disability Assessment Program (LDAP)

The Disability Supplement

- MassHealth applicants who indicate that they have a disability when applying for MassHealth benefits are mailed a disability supplement.
- The supplement provides Disability Evaluation Services with information about the applicant's disability, activity of daily living, education and work history.

Critical Supplement Elements

- Signed Medical Releases.
- Applicant demographic information.
- A complete description of the applicant's health problems and medications.
- Information about the health care providers that have treated the applicant during the past 12 months.

Critical Elements, Continued

- Language ability and educational attainment.
- Work history including detailed information about the applicant's most recent job.
- Appointment preferences, more than two choices may be listed.
- Activity of daily living Information.



Supplements are mailed directly to Disability Evaluation Services (DES)

Disability Evaluation Services

UMASS Medical DES

P.O. Box 2796

Worcester, Ma. 01613-2796

Processing New Supplements

- Step 1 is writing to all applicant treating sources.
- DES contacts hospitals, physicians and non-medical providers such as social workers and schools.
- Telephone calls are made to key treating sources who do not respond to written requests.

Consultative Exams (CE)

- DES prefers to utilize treating source information; however, if sufficient information is not received a CE(s) may be necessary.
- CEs are ordered if:
An applicant has no treating provider; or information received from the applicants treating provider is insufficient or out of date.

The CE Process

- 10 -14 days prior to a CE, applicants & authorized representatives are mailed an appointment notification letter.
- This letter informs applicants of:
 - The date and time of the appointment;
 - The availability of transportation; and
 - The availability of medical interpreters.

CE Letters are sent in English and Spanish.

The Decision Process

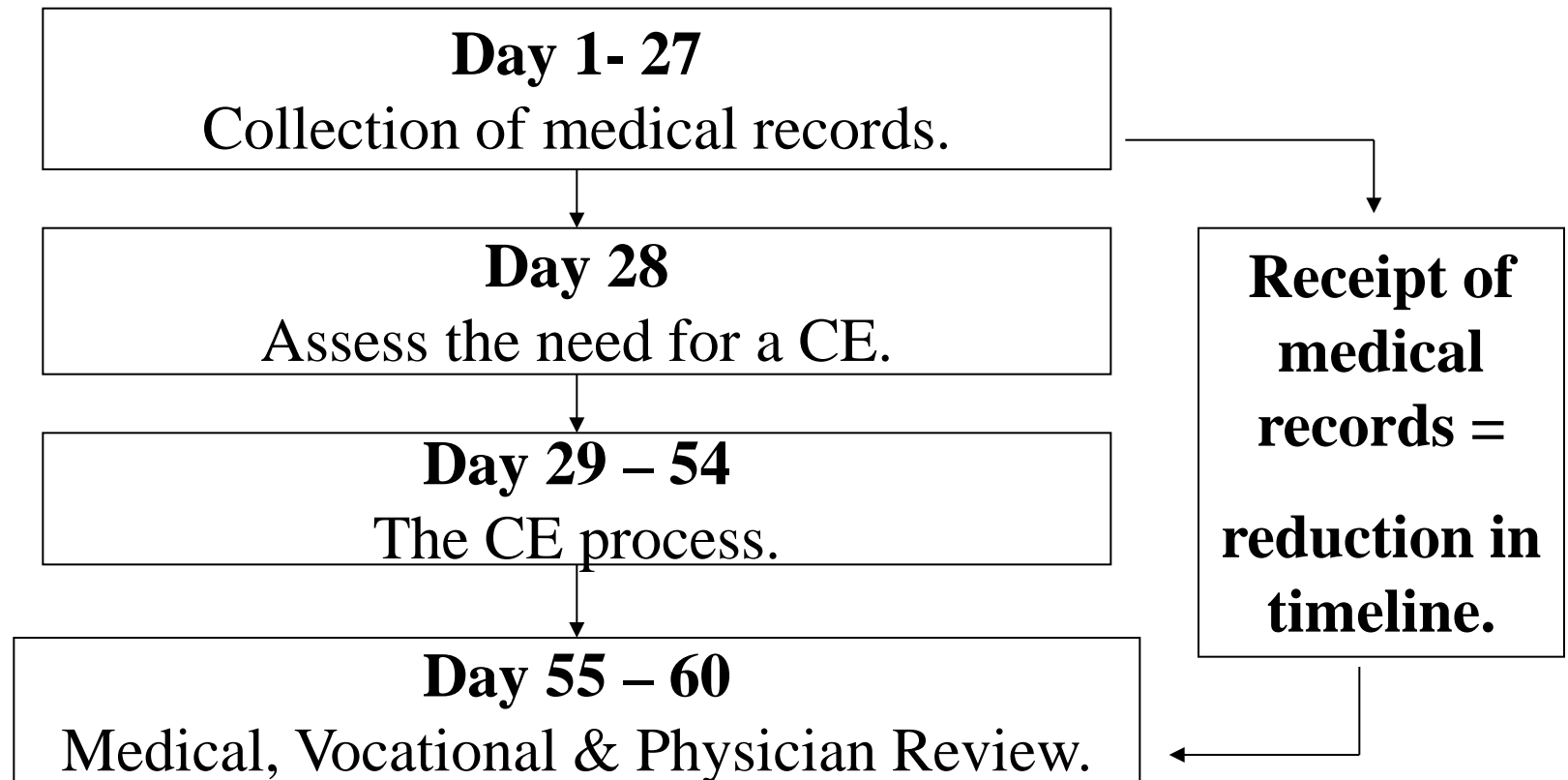
- Applicant medical information is reviewed by qualified professionals:
 - Registered Nurses (RN)
 - Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors
 - Physicians and Psychologists
- Determinations are based on Title XVI regulations.

The Five Step Process

- 🕒 Evaluation of Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)
- 🕒 Severity and Duration
- 🕒 Comparison to Medical Listings
- ↪ Determination if the Applicant can Perform Past Work
- ↪ Determination if the Applicant can Perform Other Work

The DES Time Line Guideline

Actual time line varies depending on case circumstances.



How You Can Assist the DES

- Work with applicants to fully complete the Disability Supplement.
- Verify that medical release forms are signed and dated.
- Submit available medical records with the Disability Supplement.
- Act as an authorized representative
- Fax Medical Information to DES at 774-455-8156.



How We Can Help...

- Contact Kathleen Nichols if you have any questions about the process.

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