



# OFFICE OF LONG-TERM LIVING BULLETIN

ISSUE DATE

January 29, 2019

EFFECTIVE DATE

February 1, 2019

NUMBER

59-19-01

SUBJECT:

Standardized Physician Certification Form

Kevin Hancock  
Deputy Secretary, Office of Long-Term Living

## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this bulletin is to issue a standardized Physician Certification form (MA 570) to be used when determining level of care eligibility for individuals applying for, and enrolled in, home and community-based services (HCBS) in an Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) program.

## **SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to the Pennsylvania Independent Enrollment Broker (IEB) and to Service Coordination Entities (SCE) that provide services to participants in the Aging, Attendant Care, Independence and OBRA waivers and the Act 150 Program.

## **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

Clinical eligibility for HCBS, either through a Medicaid waiver or a state funded program, requires an individual to meet level of care criteria specific to each waiver or program. An individual's level of care is determined through an assessment of his or her need for services and a physician verification. In November 2010, OLTL issued a bulletin implementing the use of a physician prescription to verify that the waiver applicant meets the level of care to quality for HCBS. Since that time, OLTL has determined the use of the physician prescription has been applied inconsistently across the Commonwealth. For the purpose of consistency and clarity, OLTL is now requiring the MA 570 Physician Certification form be used to determine initial clinical eligibility for all OLTL HCBS programs. The MA 570 should also be used during redetermination only when the Service Coordinator identifies a change in condition or functioning that may result in the participant being determined Nursing Facility Ineligible (NFI).

## **PROCEDURES:**

Effective February 1, 2019, the MA 570 will be the only Physician Certification form accepted by OLTL for HCBS enrollment applications and redeterminations.

The MA 570 is required verification to determine if an individual applying for HCBS can be categorized as Nursing Facility Clinically Eligible (NFCE), Nursing Facility Ineligible (NFI), or

Intermediate Care Facility for Other Related Condition (ICF/ORC). It also verifies if the individual's condition or disability is anticipated to last greater than 12 months (long term) or less than 12 months (short term). The MA 570, in conjunction with a functional eligibility determination conducted by a contracted state entity, will determine clinical eligibility for HCBS.

The MA 570 is required for both initial enrollment applications and redeterminations conducted due to a change in need that may result in the participant being determined NFI.

This bulletin rescinds guidance pertaining to the MA-51/Physician Certification in the November 23, 2010, Office of Long-Term Living Home and Community-Based Program Policy Clarification Update Bulletin 05-10-8, 51-10-8, 55-10-8, 59-10-8. In addition, all OLTL policy documents or parts of policy documents that are inconsistent with the content of this bulletin are hereby rescinded.

The MA-51 will continue to be utilized in accordance with the Office of Income Maintenance Long Term Care (LTC) Handbook, Chapter 404, to determine eligibility for LTC facility services, and to determine eligibility for services in the Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) Program.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Physician Certification Form MA 570

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

**PA Dept. of Human Services  
OLTL/Forum Place 6th Floor  
Bureau of Policy and Regulatory Management  
P.O. Box 8025  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8025  
(717) 857-3280**