

Policy Clarifications

Medical Assistance – All

PMA-19870-322

Submitted: 04/14/2020

Agency: CAOs

Subject: **Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA) Procedures during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency**

Questions: What changes have been made to the EMA procedures due to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act?

Response By: **Division of Health Services**

Date: **04/17/2020**

Effective with the issuance of this policy clarification, the changes listed below have been made to the EMA procedures during the COVID-19 emergency:

- For EMA requests related to COVID-19 testing or services:
 - The CAO will **not** send any requests for EMA related to COVID-19 to the EMA Mailbox.
 - The CAO will open **ongoing** EMA for any COVID-19 related EMA requests.
 - The CAO will reference this policy clarification and that the EMA request was COVID-19 emergency related in the narrative.

- For EMA requests for any reason **other than** COVID-19 related testing or services:
 - The CAO will continue to send medical documentation to the EMA Mailbox at ra-pwemarequest@pa.gov for review.
 - If the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) approves the medical condition then the CAO will open **ongoing** EMA, **even if the documentation provides an end date**.
 - The CAO will review eligibility after the COVID-19 emergency ends by setting an alert to review the case. The alerts should be set for every 30 days until the COVID-19 emergency ends. Once the

COVID-19 emergency ends the CAO will request updated medical documentation.

- The CAO will reference this policy clarification as the reason for opening ongoing EMA in the narrative.