

Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MA-EPD)

Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities or MA-EPD allows people with disabilities who work to receive Medical Assistance at relatively low cost. Minnesotans are eligible for MA-EPD if they: are employed earning more than \$65 per month and

- are paying Medicare and Social Security taxes and
- are certified as disabled by either Social Security or the State Medical Review Team and
- have no more than \$20,000 in assets and
- are not eligible for basic Medical Assistance (MA) including 1619(b) and
- are at least age 16 (no upper age limit)

People on the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or SSI 1619(b) programs do not need and are not eligible for MA-EPD because they already qualify for Medical Assistance with no cost except co-pays. They may qualify for MA-EPD if they later become ineligible for SSI or SSI 1619(b).

Temporary Leave: MA-EPD may continue without earned income for up to four months if you are on temporary medical leave and a doctor states you are expected to return to work in four months or less; or, you lose your job through no fault of your own. (For example, you didn't quit or get fired, but were laid off.)

Definition of Person with a Disability: If you receive Social Security benefits or Medicare due to a disability, you qualify as disabled for this program. Otherwise, you must be certified disabled by the State Medical Review Team. Your county financial worker will arrange a disability determination by the State Medical Review Team if you are not on Social Security disability benefits.

Assets: MA-EPD does not count retirement accounts, medical expense accounts, or other assets excluded by regular Medical Assistance (such as a home, a vehicle or household goods).

Other Health Insurance: If you have other health

insurance, you must tell your county financial worker. MA-EPD may reimburse you for private insurance premiums if your policy is determined to be cost effective. Your Medicare premiums may also be reimbursed if your income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (currently \$2,024 per month for a single person). If you are eligible for Medicare, MA-EPD requires you to enroll in Medicare Part B, regardless of whether or not you will be reimbursed for Part B premiums.

Married Couples: If you are married, your spouse's income and assets are not counted as long as you work and qualify for MA-EPD. ***If your spouse also has a disability and receives SSI, call the Work Incentives Connection! Your spouse's SSI and Medical Assistance benefits could be affected if you work or increase your employment.***

Monthly Premium: MA-EPD enrollees pay a monthly premium, based on their household size and total gross monthly income. Gross monthly income equals gross monthly earned income (hourly wage x hours worked per month), plus gross monthly unearned income (SSDI or any other income that does not come from working).

There is a minimum MA-EPD premium of \$35 per month, and premiums gradually increase as income increases. Those at the high end pay 7.5% of their income (total gross monthly income x .075).

Those with Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) SSDI or other unearned income pay an additional charge of one half of one percent (unearned income x .005) as part of their premium.

Your county financial worker will determine the specific amount of your premium and tell you when and how to pay it to the State. If you have Internet access, you can get an estimate of your premium by going to the following website: www.db101.org and follow the links to health care and then to MA-EPD and premiums.

Co-Pays: All Medical Assistance enrollees, including those on MA-EPD are charged co-pays for certain services. Your health care providers will tell you if a co-pay is required for their services.

How to apply for MA-EPD: Contact your county financial worker and ask about MA-EPD. If you do not have a financial worker, contact your county human services office.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Report all changes in your income, assets or household size to your county financial worker within 10 days, even if those changes may not affect your MA-EPD. Remember that working may also affect other benefits you receive, such as Social Security, Food Support or subsidized housing. You must report changes in your income to representatives of each of those programs.

For more information: Contact your county financial worker or local county human services agency.

For more information, call the Work Incentives Connection:

651-632-5113 or 1-800-976-6728

(Minnesota Relay – 711)

www.mnworkincentives.com

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CONNECTION**

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