

mainecare eligibility manual

Understanding the MaineCare Eligibility Manual: A Comprehensive Guide

mainecare eligibility manual serves as the definitive resource for understanding who qualifies for Maine's Medicaid program. This vital document outlines the intricate requirements and guidelines necessary for individuals and families to access essential healthcare services. Navigating these specifications can be complex, so a thorough understanding of its contents is crucial for potential applicants and healthcare providers alike. This article will delve into the core components of the MaineCare eligibility manual, exploring various program categories, income and asset limitations, and the application process. We will also touch upon specific populations who may qualify for MaineCare and the importance of staying updated with the manual's revisions.

MaineCare Eligibility Manual: Core Principles and Program Overview

The MaineCare Eligibility Manual is the foundational document that governs the administration and operation of Maine's Medicaid program. It is meticulously designed to ensure that individuals and families with limited income and resources can receive necessary medical care. This comprehensive guide details the specific criteria that applicants must meet to be deemed eligible for various MaineCare services. Understanding these core principles is the first step in the eligibility determination process.

What is MaineCare?

MaineCare is the name for the state of Maine's Medicaid program. It provides essential health coverage to low-income individuals, families, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and people with disabilities. The program aims to make healthcare more accessible and affordable for those who might otherwise struggle to afford it. MaineCare covers a wide range of services, from doctor's visits and hospital stays to prescription medications and long-term care.

The Role of the MaineCare Eligibility Manual

The MaineCare Eligibility Manual is the official rulebook that dictates eligibility for all MaineCare programs. It is developed and maintained by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The manual contains detailed policies, procedures, and definitions that eligibility caseworkers use to assess applications. For individuals seeking MaineCare, understanding the concepts presented in the manual can demystify the application process and help them determine their potential eligibility.

Key Eligibility Factors

Eligibility for MaineCare is generally determined by a combination of factors, primarily focusing on income, household size, household composition, and in some cases, assets. Different MaineCare coverage groups have varying thresholds for these factors. The manual provides detailed charts and explanations to clarify these requirements for each specific group. It is essential to consult the most current version of the manual for accurate information, as guidelines can be updated periodically.

Navigating MaineCare Program Categories

The MaineCare program is not a one-size-fits-all solution. Instead, it is divided into various categories, each designed to serve specific populations with distinct needs. The MaineCare Eligibility Manual meticulously details the requirements for each of these categories, ensuring that resources are allocated appropriately. Understanding these distinctions is paramount for individuals trying to determine which MaineCare pathway might be applicable to their situation.

Children's Health Coverage

MaineCare offers comprehensive health coverage for children. Eligibility for children's programs is typically based on household income, with higher income limits often available for children compared to adults. The manual outlines specific income-to-poverty ratios used for these determinations. This ensures that even families with incomes that may not qualify them for other public assistance can still secure vital healthcare for their children.

Adults and Families

For adults and families, MaineCare eligibility can be determined by household size and income. The Affordable Care Act expanded Medicaid eligibility in many states, and Maine is no exception. The manual provides the current income thresholds for adults, which are often tied to the Federal Poverty

Level (FPL). Factors like household composition and the presence of dependents play a significant role in these calculations.

Elderly and Disabled Individuals

MaineCare also provides crucial support for elderly individuals and those with disabilities. For these groups, eligibility can be more complex, often involving not only income but also asset limitations. The manual details specific rules for determining countable assets, such as bank accounts, stocks, and bonds, and explains exemptions that may apply. It also outlines the process for evaluating disability status through Social Security Administration or state agency determinations.

Pregnant Women and Infants

Pregnant women and infants are a priority for MaineCare. The program ensures that expectant mothers receive necessary prenatal care and that infants have access to essential health services from birth. The eligibility criteria for this group are often more lenient regarding income, recognizing the critical importance of maternal and infant health. The manual specifies the income limits and documentation required for these applications.

Income and Asset Limitations in the MaineCare Eligibility Manual

A cornerstone of eligibility for most MaineCare programs is the adherence to specific income and asset limitations. The MaineCare Eligibility Manual provides detailed guidelines on how these factors are calculated and what counts as income or an asset. Navigating these financial requirements is often the most challenging aspect of the application process for many individuals and families.

Calculating Household Income

The manual defines what constitutes countable income for MaineCare eligibility. This typically includes wages, salaries, self-employment income, Social Security benefits, pensions, and other forms of regular income. It also specifies deductions and disregards that may be applied, effectively reducing the countable income. Understanding these calculations is crucial for accurately assessing potential eligibility. The manual often includes tables and examples to illustrate these calculations.

Understanding Asset Limits

For certain MaineCare categories, particularly those serving the elderly and disabled, asset limitations are a key factor. The MaineCare Eligibility Manual defines what constitutes a countable asset and provides guidance on asset exclusions. Common countable assets include:

- Bank accounts (checking and savings)
- Stocks and bonds
- Cash
- Certain vehicles
- Second homes or properties not considered a primary residence

Exempt assets typically include the primary residence, one vehicle, household goods, and personal effects. The manual details the value limits for these assets.

Special Rules for Specific Programs

It's important to note that different MaineCare programs may have unique income and asset rules. For instance, programs related to long-term care or specific medical needs might have different thresholds than those for general children's coverage. The manual meticulously outlines these variations, ensuring that caseworkers can apply the correct regulations based on the applicant's specific circumstances and the program they are applying for.

The MaineCare Application Process and Required Documentation

Successfully navigating the MaineCare eligibility manual culminates in a formal application process. The Maine Department of Health and Human Services utilizes specific procedures and requires particular documentation to verify an applicant's eligibility. Understanding these steps and having the necessary paperwork readily available can significantly streamline the process and prevent delays.

Where and How to Apply

Applications for MaineCare can typically be submitted online through the state's official portal, by mail, or in person at local DHHS offices. The

MaineCare Eligibility Manual, while not a direct application portal, provides information on where to find these resources. It's advisable to start by visiting the official Maine DHHS website, which will guide you to the correct application platform.

Essential Documentation for Application

When applying for MaineCare, applicants will need to provide proof of various aspects of their life. The manual implies the need for documentation to support claims made in the application. Commonly required documents include:

- Proof of identity (e.g., birth certificate, driver's license)
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or eligible immigration status
- Proof of Maine residency
- Proof of income (e.g., pay stubs, tax returns, benefit award letters)
- Proof of assets (e.g., bank statements)
- Social Security numbers for all household members
- Information about health insurance coverage, if any

The exact documentation needed can vary depending on the specific MaineCare category being applied for, and the manual serves as the ultimate reference for these requirements.

Understanding the Determination Process

Once an application is submitted, it is reviewed by DHHS caseworkers who use the MaineCare Eligibility Manual to determine eligibility. This process involves verifying the information provided and ensuring it aligns with the program's guidelines. Applicants may be contacted for additional information or clarification. The manual guides caseworkers in making these decisions fairly and consistently.

Staying Updated with the MaineCare Eligibility Manual

The landscape of healthcare regulations and government assistance programs is dynamic. The MaineCare Eligibility Manual is subject to periodic updates and revisions to reflect changes in state and federal laws, economic conditions,

and program policies. Staying informed about these changes is crucial for both applicants and those who assist them, such as healthcare providers and social workers.

Importance of Current Information

Relying on outdated information from the MaineCare Eligibility Manual can lead to incorrect assumptions about eligibility, frustration during the application process, and ultimately, denial of benefits. The most current version of the manual ensures that all decisions are based on the latest regulations, guaranteeing fairness and compliance.

Accessing the Latest Version

The official Maine Department of Health and Human Services website is the primary source for the most up-to-date version of the MaineCare Eligibility Manual. This document is typically available for download in PDF format. It is recommended that individuals and organizations regularly check for updates to ensure they are working with the most current guidelines.

How Changes Affect Eligibility

Amendments to the manual can impact income thresholds, asset limits, covered services, and application procedures. For example, changes in federal poverty levels can alter income eligibility for certain groups. Similarly, new legislation may introduce new coverage categories or modify existing ones. Being aware of these potential shifts allows individuals to proactively assess their situation and prepare accordingly.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the primary categories of individuals eligible for MaineCare?

MaineCare eligibility generally falls into categories based on age, disability, and income. These include children in low-income families, pregnant women, individuals with disabilities, elderly individuals (aged 65 and over), and adults who meet certain income and medical necessity criteria (often referred to as the expanded Medicaid population in Maine).

How does income affect MaineCare eligibility for

adults?

Income is a crucial factor. MaineCare uses Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) to determine eligibility for most populations, including children, pregnant women, and adults under 65. There are specific income limits, expressed as a percentage of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), that applicants must meet to qualify. For some populations, like the elderly or disabled, income limits might be calculated differently and often consider assets as well.

What is the role of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in MaineCare eligibility?

The Maine DHHS is the state agency responsible for administering the MaineCare program. They establish the eligibility criteria based on federal and state laws, process applications, determine eligibility, and oversee the services provided to MaineCare members.

Are there asset limits for MaineCare eligibility in Maine?

Asset limits generally apply to specific MaineCare programs, primarily those for the elderly and individuals with disabilities who are seeking long-term care services or are eligible through programs like SSI-related Medicaid. For most other MaineCare populations, particularly those eligible based on MAGI, assets are not a primary consideration.

Where can I find the official MaineCare Eligibility Manual?

The official MaineCare Eligibility Manual is maintained by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). It is typically accessible through the DHHS website. Searching for 'MaineCare Eligibility Manual' on the DHHS website or Maine.gov should lead you to the most current version.

How does a change in household composition affect MaineCare eligibility?

Changes in household composition, such as marriage, divorce, the birth or adoption of a child, or a child turning 19, can significantly impact MaineCare eligibility. These changes can alter the applicant's household size and income, potentially making them newly eligible or ineligible. It's crucial to report such changes to DHHS promptly.

What are the next steps after applying for MaineCare

if my application is denied?

If your MaineCare application is denied, you have the right to appeal the decision. The denial letter you receive will outline the reasons for the denial and the process for filing an appeal. This typically involves requesting a fair hearing within a specific timeframe. You may also be encouraged to reapply if your circumstances change.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to the MaineCare eligibility manual, each with a short description:

1. *Navigating Maine's Healthcare Landscape: A Practical Guide to MaineCare*

This book offers a comprehensive overview of the MaineCare program for individuals and families in Maine. It breaks down the complexities of eligibility criteria, application processes, and available benefits in clear, accessible language. Readers will find practical advice on understanding income limitations, asset tests, and the various services MaineCare covers, empowering them to make informed decisions about their healthcare coverage.

2. *The Maine Senior's Handbook: Understanding MaineCare and Long-Term Care*

Specifically tailored for Maine's senior population, this guide demystifies the intricacies of MaineCare as it pertains to older adults. It focuses on eligibility requirements for programs like Long-Term Care services, home and community-based options, and assisted living. The book aims to equip seniors and their caregivers with the knowledge needed to access the care and support they deserve through MaineCare.

3. *Maine Family Planning & MaineCare: Accessing Essential Reproductive Health Services*

This resource explores the intersection of family planning services and MaineCare eligibility in Maine. It details how MaineCare covers a range of reproductive health services, including prenatal care, contraception, and family planning counseling, for eligible individuals. The book provides step-by-step guidance on how to access these vital services and understand any specific coverage nuances related to reproductive health.

4. *Disability & Maine: A MaineCare Eligibility Manual for Special Needs*

Designed for individuals with disabilities and their advocates in Maine, this book focuses on MaineCare eligibility pathways for special needs. It clarifies the specific medical and functional criteria used for disability determination within the MaineCare system. The guide also outlines the various services and support programs available to individuals with disabilities, ensuring they can navigate the system effectively.

5. *Understanding MaineCare for Children and Families: A Comprehensive Resource*

This book serves as an essential guide for parents and guardians seeking to understand MaineCare coverage for their children. It outlines the eligibility

requirements for families, focusing on income thresholds and household composition. Readers will learn about the broad spectrum of pediatric healthcare services covered by Mainecare, from well-child visits to specialized medical treatments.

6. Maine's Medicaid Expansion: Your Mainecare Eligibility Explained

This title delves into the impact and implications of Maine's Medicaid expansion on Mainecare eligibility. It provides an updated perspective on who now qualifies for coverage and the benefits available. The book aims to clarify any confusion arising from recent policy changes, making it easier for more Mainers to understand their potential eligibility for healthcare assistance.

7. The Maine Home and Community-Based Services Manual: Leveraging Mainecare for In-Home Support

This specialized manual focuses on how Mainecare supports individuals who wish to receive care and support in their own homes or communities. It explains the eligibility criteria and application processes for various home and community-based services offered through Mainecare. The book is a valuable resource for those seeking alternatives to institutional care and wanting to understand their options.

8. Appealing Mainecare Decisions: A Maine Resident's Guide to Fair Hearing Processes

For individuals who have had their Mainecare applications denied or benefits reduced, this book offers crucial guidance on the appeal process in Maine. It outlines the steps involved in requesting a fair hearing and what evidence is typically required. The guide aims to empower residents to effectively advocate for their healthcare needs and navigate the formal appeal procedures.

9. MaineCare for the Employed: Balancing Work and Healthcare Coverage

This book addresses the specific needs of employed individuals in Maine who may be eligible for Mainecare. It clarifies how earned income and employment benefits affect eligibility and explains programs designed to help working individuals and families access healthcare. The guide provides strategies for understanding Mainecare's role in supplementing or providing comprehensive coverage while employed.

Mainecare Eligibility Manual

MaineCare Eligibility: A Comprehensive Guide to Navigating the System

This ebook provides a detailed overview of MaineCare eligibility, a crucial aspect of accessing healthcare in Maine. Understanding the intricacies of the MaineCare program is essential for individuals and families seeking affordable healthcare options, and this guide serves as a valuable resource to navigate the application process and maintain eligibility. It will cover eligibility criteria, application procedures, renewal processes, and appeal rights, empowering readers to effectively utilize MaineCare benefits.

MaineCare Eligibility Manual: A Detailed Breakdown

This manual, titled "Unlocking MaineCare: A Practical Guide to Eligibility and Benefits," is structured as follows:

Introduction: Explaining the purpose of MaineCare and its significance in the Maine healthcare landscape.

Chapter 1: Understanding MaineCare Programs: Detailing the various MaineCare programs available (e.g., Adult, Child, Aged, Disabled) and their specific eligibility requirements.

Chapter 2: Income and Resource Limits: A thorough examination of the income and asset limits that determine eligibility for each program. This includes explanations of how different income sources are counted and what assets are considered.

Chapter 3: Categorical Eligibility: Discussing the various categories that can qualify individuals for MaineCare, such as age, disability, pregnancy, and family size. It will delve into the specific documentation required to prove eligibility in each category.

Chapter 4: The Application Process: A step-by-step guide to completing the MaineCare application, including where to obtain forms, how to submit them, and what to expect during the processing period.

Chapter 5: Maintaining Eligibility: Guidance on the requirements for maintaining MaineCare coverage, including reporting changes in income, address, or family status. This also covers the renewal process and potential consequences of failing to report changes promptly.

Chapter 6: Appealing a Denial: A comprehensive explanation of the appeal process if a MaineCare application is denied or benefits are terminated. This will detail the steps involved, timelines, and available resources for assistance.

Chapter 7: Understanding Your Benefits: A clear explanation of the covered services under MaineCare, including medical, dental, and behavioral health services. It will also address any limitations or exclusions.

Conclusion: Summarizing key information and providing resources for further assistance.

Detailed Explanation of Each Chapter:

The Introduction sets the stage by defining MaineCare, explaining its role in providing healthcare access, and highlighting the importance of understanding eligibility criteria.

Chapter 1 delves into the specifics of MaineCare's diverse programs, clarifying the differences between them and the unique eligibility requirements for each. This will eliminate confusion and help readers identify the appropriate program for their needs.

Chapter 2 addresses the often-confusing topic of income and resource limits, breaking down complex rules into easily digestible information. This section will include real-world examples and clarify ambiguities regarding different income sources and asset calculations.

Chapter 3 focuses on categorical eligibility, explaining the various groups eligible for MaineCare and the documentation needed to substantiate their claims. This section will offer practical advice on gathering necessary paperwork efficiently.

Chapter 4 provides a clear, step-by-step guide to navigating the application process, including instructions on obtaining application forms, completing them accurately, and submitting them correctly. This section will address common application errors and how to avoid them.

Chapter 5 highlights the ongoing responsibilities of maintaining eligibility, emphasizing the importance of timely reporting of changes in circumstances. This section will explain the renewal process and potential consequences of non-compliance.

Chapter 6 empowers readers by providing a detailed understanding of the appeals process, outlining the steps involved in challenging a denial or termination of benefits. It will provide resources and tips for successful appeals.

Chapter 7 clarifies the scope of MaineCare benefits, detailing covered services and highlighting any limitations. This ensures readers have a realistic understanding of what to expect from their coverage.

The Conclusion reinforces key concepts and provides a list of valuable resources for additional support and information, such as contact information for the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and relevant advocacy groups.

Keywords: MaineCare, MaineCare eligibility, MaineCare application, healthcare Maine, Medicaid Maine, MaineCare benefits, income limits MaineCare, resource limits MaineCare, MaineCare renewal, MaineCare appeal, DHHS Maine, MaineCare programs, affordable healthcare Maine, MaineCare eligibility requirements.

FAQs:

1. What is the income limit for MaineCare? The income limit varies depending on the specific MaineCare program and household size. Refer to the relevant DHHS guidelines for exact figures.
2. What assets are considered when determining MaineCare eligibility? Assets such as bank accounts, stocks, bonds, and real estate are considered. However, there are often exemptions for certain assets, like a primary residence.

3. How long does the MaineCare application process take? Processing times can vary, but generally, expect a decision within several weeks.
4. What happens if my MaineCare application is denied? You have the right to appeal the decision. The manual details the steps for appealing a denial.
5. How often do I need to renew my MaineCare coverage? Renewal requirements vary by program. The renewal process is explained in detail in the manual.
6. What services are covered by MaineCare? MaineCare covers a wide range of medical, dental, and behavioral health services. Specific coverage may vary based on the program.
7. Where can I find MaineCare application forms? Application forms are available online through the DHHS website and at various local offices.
8. What if my circumstances change (e.g., income, address)? It is crucial to report any changes to DHHS promptly to avoid disruption of your coverage.
9. What resources are available for help with the MaineCare application process? The DHHS website, local community health centers, and advocacy organizations can provide assistance.

Related Articles:

1. Understanding MaineCare Income Guidelines: A detailed breakdown of the income limits for different MaineCare programs and household sizes.
2. Navigating the MaineCare Asset Test: Explaining which assets are considered and how they impact eligibility.
3. The Complete Guide to MaineCare Application Forms: A step-by-step guide to filling out the forms accurately.
4. Appealing a MaineCare Denial: A Practical Guide: A comprehensive overview of the appeals process and how to increase your chances of success.
5. Maintaining Your MaineCare Eligibility: Tips and Best Practices: Advice on how to maintain coverage and avoid disruption of benefits.
6. A Guide to MaineCare Covered Services: A detailed explanation of the services provided under each MaineCare program.
7. Finding Local Resources for MaineCare Assistance: A directory of local organizations that can provide assistance with the application process.
8. MaineCare for Seniors: Specific Eligibility Criteria and Benefits: A focused look at MaineCare's programs for senior citizens.
9. MaineCare for Individuals with Disabilities: A Comprehensive Guide: A guide dedicated to MaineCare's programs for individuals with disabilities.

mainecare eligibility manual: Making Eye Health a Population Health Imperative

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, Committee on Public Health Approaches to Reduce

Vision Impairment and Promote Eye Health, 2017-01-15 The ability to see deeply affects how human beings perceive and interpret the world around them. For most people, eyesight is part of everyday communication, social activities, educational and professional pursuits, the care of others, and the maintenance of personal health, independence, and mobility. Functioning eyes and vision system can reduce an adult's risk of chronic health conditions, death, falls and injuries, social isolation, depression, and other psychological problems. In children, properly maintained eye and vision health contributes to a child's social development, academic achievement, and better health across the lifespan. The public generally recognizes its reliance on sight and fears its loss, but emphasis on eye and vision health, in general, has not been integrated into daily life to the same extent as other health promotion activities, such as teeth brushing; hand washing; physical and mental exercise; and various injury prevention behaviors. A larger population health approach is needed to engage a wide range of stakeholders in coordinated efforts that can sustain the scope of behavior change. The shaping of socioeconomic environments can eventually lead to new social norms that promote eye and vision health. Making Eye Health a Population Health Imperative: Vision for Tomorrow proposes a new population-centered framework to guide action and coordination among various, and sometimes competing, stakeholders in pursuit of improved eye and vision health and health equity in the United States. Building on the momentum of previous public health efforts, this report also introduces a model for action that highlights different levels of prevention activities across a range of stakeholders and provides specific examples of how population health strategies can be translated into cohesive areas for action at federal, state, and local levels.

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mainecare eligibility manual: **Telemedicine** Dee W. Ford, Shawn R. Valenta, 2021-03-03 This book provides an overview of key issues with regards to implementing telemedicine services as well as an in depth overview of telemedicine in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine. Topics range from specific practices to program development. Telemedicine has experienced explosive growth in recent years and yet, implementing telemedicine solutions is complex with substantial regulatory, legal, financial, logistical, and intra-organization/intra-personal barriers that must be overcome. This book provides the necessary information and guidance to address those complex issues. This book is broadly divided into two parts 1) a primer on requisite steps before embarking on telemedicine service development and 2) specific applications and examples where telemedicine is successfully utilized to improve quality of care in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine. The first part includes coverage of telemedicine and finance, regulatory and legal issues, and program development. The second part delves into specifics with information on ambulatory telemedicine programs, inpatient consultations, and tele-ICU programs. All chapters are written by interprofessional authors that are leaders in the field of telemedicine with extensive knowledge of diverse telemedicine programs and robust real-world experience on the topic. This is an ideal guide for telehealth program managers, and pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine professionals interested in improving their telehealth practice.

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Welcome to the gold standard in critical care transport training. Published in conjunction with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and endorsed by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and the International Association of Flight and Critical Care Providers (IAFCCP), Critical Care Transport, Second Edition, offers cutting-edge content relevant to any health care provider training in critical care transport. Authored by leading critical care professionals from across the country, Critical Care Transport, Second Edition, contains state-of-the-art information on ground and flight transport that aligns with the latest evidence-based medicine and practices. Content includes information specific to prehospital critical care transport, such as flight physiology, lab analysis, hemodynamic monitoring, and specialized devices such as the intra-aortic balloon pump. Standard topics such as airway management, tra

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require a separate statutory supplement Practice problems of varying difficulty that encourage students to apply what they are learning to realistic client-focused hypothetical scenarios Questions throughout the text that prompt critical thinking and prepare students to engage in classroom discussion ● Exercises that can be used for either independent or in-class assignments

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the psychiatric, scholarly, and policy-related literature on the social determinants of mental health: those factors stemming from where we learn, play, live, work, and age that impact our overall mental health and well-being. The editors and an impressive roster of chapter authors from diverse scholarly backgrounds provide detailed information on topics such as discrimination and social exclusion; adverse early life experiences; poor education; unemployment, underemployment, and job insecurity; income inequality, poverty, and neighborhood deprivation; food insecurity; poor housing quality and housing instability; adverse features of the built environment; and poor access to mental health care. This thought-provoking book offers many beneficial features for clinicians and public health professionals: Clinical vignettes are included, designed to make the content accessible to readers who are primarily clinicians and also to demonstrate the practical, individual-level applicability of the subject matter for those who typically work at the public health, population, and/or policy level. Policy implications are discussed throughout, designed to make the content accessible to readers who work primarily at the public health or population level and also to demonstrate the policy relevance of the subject matter for those who typically work at the clinical level. All chapters include five to six key points that focus on the most important content, helping to both prepare the reader with a brief overview of the chapter's main points and reinforce the take-away messages afterward. In addition to the main body of the book, which focuses on selected individual social determinants of mental health, the volume includes an in-depth overview that summarizes the editors' and their colleagues' conceptualization, as well as a final chapter coauthored by Dr. David Satcher, 16th Surgeon General of the United States, that serves as a Call to Action, offering specific actions that can be taken by both clinicians and policymakers to address the social determinants of mental health. The editors have succeeded in the difficult task of balancing the individual/clinical/patient perspective and the population/public health/community point of view, while underscoring the need for both groups to work in a unified way to address the inequities in twenty-first century America. The Social Determinants of Mental Health gives readers the tools to understand and act to improve mental health and reduce risk for mental illnesses for individuals and communities. Students preparing for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) will also benefit from this book, as the MCAT in 2015 will test applicants' knowledge of social determinants of health. The social determinants of mental health are not distinct from the social determinants of physical health, although they deserve special emphasis given the prevalence and burden of poor mental health.

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