

MEDICAID ALERT

February 19, 2013

Special Income Standard for Housing Expenses for Individuals
Discharged from a Nursing Facility and who Enroll into the
Managed Long Term Care Program

Effective October 15, 2012, individuals who can be safely discharged back to the community from a nursing facility and who enroll into the Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) program will have their Medicaid eligibility determined under a special income standard if the recipient has a housing expense. This special income standard is available the first day of the month enrollment into the MLTC program becomes effective.

To be eligible for the special income standard for housing expenses, an individual must:

- Be approved for participation in and enrolled in a MLTC plan
- Have been in the nursing home for at least 30 days (not including the date of discharge)
- Have made a payment made by Medicaid toward the cost of the individual's care in the nursing home
- Have a housing expense

Individuals who are subject to spousal impoverishment budgeting in the community are excluded from receiving the special income standard. This means that a married individual who participates in the Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program is not eligible for the special income standard as they are considered to be an institutionalized spouse for spousal impoverishment budgeting purposes.

The special income amount varies by New York State region. The amount for New York City is \$1042 regardless of the recipient's actual housing expense. The special income standard is used for determining the former nursing home resident's eligibility for Medicaid. It is not used for determining eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program.

Since a consumer must be approved for participation in and enrolled in a MLTC plan to qualify for the special income standard, MLTC plans will be responsible for notifying HRA of a recipient's potential eligibility for the special income standard. A new form, MAP-3057, has been developed for completion by consumers to attest to information necessary to determine their eligibility for the

new standard. That form also includes a phone number for use by consumers (or their representatives) should they wish to directly notify HRA that they want to apply for this special income standard.

MLTC plans have been asked to manually submit enrollments for nursing home residents to Home Care's Medicaid unit so that the nursing home case conversion and enrollment into an MLTC plan can be coordinated. For consumers potentially eligible for the special income standard, MLTC plans must work with consumers to complete form MAP-3057 and must submit the form along with the enrollment. This will allow the special income standard to be used when appropriate. Nursing homes should continue to submit Discharge Notices (MAP-259D) to the Nursing Home Division to ensure prompt conversion of cases to community coverage.

If an individual is receiving the special income standard and disenrolls from MLTC, the special income standard ceases to apply the first day of the month following the month of disenrollment.

Further information is available in 12 OHIP/ADM-5, Special Income Standard for Housing Expenses for Individuals Discharged from a Nursing Facility who Enroll into the Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) Program.

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