

GIS 18 MA/12

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Judith Arnold, Director
Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration

SUBJECT: Special Income Standard for Housing Expenses for Certain Managed Long-Term Care Enrollees Who are Discharged from a Nursing Home

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Local District Support Unit
Upstate (518) 473-6397 NYC (212) 417-4500

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to advise local departments of social services (LDSS) of the application of the special income standard for housing expenses for individuals who are discharged from a nursing home and remain enrolled in a Managed Long-Term Care (MLTC) plan.

Administrative Directive 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," advised local districts of the policy and procedures regarding the special income standard for housing expenses for individuals receiving Medicaid coverage of nursing facility services, who are discharged from a nursing home to the community and enroll in a MLTC plan. In 2014, districts were advised in GIS message 14 MA/17 of the expansion of the special income standard for housing expenses to individuals who are in receipt of Medicaid while residing in an adult home, are discharged from an adult home to the community, and, if eligible, enroll in a MLTC plan.

As part of a Medicaid Redesign Team initiative, the Department of Health received approval through an 1115 waiver amendment to apply the special income standard for housing expenses to individuals receiving Medicaid coverage of nursing facility services, other than short-term rehabilitation services, who are discharged from a nursing home to the community and remain enrolled in a MLTC plan.

Note: Individuals who meet the definition of an "institutionalized spouse" for spousal impoverishment budgeting purposes, and where post-eligibility rules are used to determine eligibility, do not qualify for the special income standard for housing expenses.

The special income standard for housing expenses for individuals who are discharged from a nursing home and remain enrolled in a MLTC plan is effective the month of discharge from the nursing home. It is the responsibility of the individual, or the individual's representative, and the nursing home to notify the LDSS of the individual's discharge from the nursing home. The notification of discharge form that is sent by the nursing home to the LDSS is being revised to obtain information from the nursing home that will assist the LDSS in identifying individuals who may be eligible for the special income standard for housing expenses upon discharge. The Department will also remind nursing homes and MLTC plans to inform nursing home residents who are discharged back to the community, and their families and representatives, of the availability of the special income standard for housing expenses.

When re-budgeting a case upon discharge from a nursing home, districts are required to evaluate the individual for the special income standard. This may require the district to obtain information from the individual regarding potential housing expenses, if not otherwise known.

Please direct any questions concerning this message to your local district liaison.