




Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
www.mass.gov/dma

MassHealth
Eligibility Letter 99
January 1, 2003

TO: Division Staff

FROM: Wendy E. Warring, Commissioner 

RE: 2003 RSDI Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Community and Long-Term-Care MassHealth Cases

The following cost-of-living adjustments are effective January 1, 2003.

- Retirement/Survivors/Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefits increased by **1.4%**.
- The maximum monthly maintenance needs allowance increased from \$2,232 to **\$2,267**.
- The maximum amount of assets that can be kept by an institutionalized individual's spouse increased from \$89,280 to **\$90,660**.
- The basic Medicare Part B premium increased from \$54 to **\$58.70** per month.

These regulations are issued as emergency regulations, effective January 1, 2003.

MANUAL UPKEEP

<u>Insert</u>	<u>Remove</u>	<u>Trans. By</u>
519.003 (2 of 2)	519.003 (2 of 2)	E.L. 89
520.026 (1 of 5)	520.026 (1 of 5)	E.L. 94

Trans. by E.L. 99

**MASSHEALTH
COVERAGE TYPES**

Rev. 01/01/03

**Chapter 519
Page 519.003**

(B) SSI Payment Standards. The RSDI amount, as described in 130 CMR 519.003(A)(3), and any other countable-income amount, as defined in 130 CMR 520.009, of the individual or couple is compared to the SSI payment standards to determine Pickle eligibility.

MASSACHUSETTS SSI PAYMENT STANDARDS					
<u>LIVING ARRANGEMENT CATEGORY</u>					
	A	B	C	E	G
	<u>Full Cost of Living Expenses</u>	<u>Shared Living Expenses</u>	<u>Household of Another</u>	<u>Licensed Rest Home</u>	<u>Assisted Living</u>
<u>Individual</u>					
Aged	\$680.82	591.26	472.36	845.00	1,006.00
Disabled	666.39	582.40	455.58	845.00	1,006.00
Blind	701.74	701.74	701.74	701.74	1,006.00
<u>Member of a Couple</u>					
Aged	\$515.36	515.36	384.24	845.00	755.00
Disabled	504.53	504.53	373.43	845.00	755.00
Blind	701.74	701.74	701.74	701.74	755.00
NOTE: The personal-needs allowance in licensed rest homes is \$60. The personal-needs allowance in nursing facilities and chronic-disease hospitals is \$65.					

(C) Financial Standards Not Met. Individuals whose income, assets, or both exceed the standards in 130 CMR 519.003 may establish eligibility by reducing assets in accordance with 130 CMR 520.004, meeting a deductible as described in 130 CMR 520.028 et seq., or both.

Trans. by E.L. 99**MASSHEALTH
FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY****Rev. 01/01/03****Chapter 520
(1 of 5) Page 520.026**

- (1) The Division determines the MMMNA by adding the following amounts:
- (a) \$1,493 (the federal standard maintenance allowance); and
 - (b) an excess shelter allowance determined by calculating the difference between the standard shelter expense of \$448 and the shelter expenses for the community spouse's principal residence, including:
 - (i) the actual expenses for rent, mortgage (including interest and principal), property taxes and insurance, and any required maintenance charge for a condominium or cooperative; and
 - (ii) the applicable standard deduction under the Food Stamp Program for utility expenses. If heat is included in the rent or condominium fee, this amount is \$237. If heat is not included in the rent or condominium fee, this amount is \$391.
- (2) The maximum-monthly-maintenance-needs allowance is \$2,267 per month, unless:
- (a) it has been increased as the result of a fair-hearing decision based on exceptional circumstances in accordance with 130 CMR 520.017(D). The amount determined as a result of a fair hearing must be used when it exceeds the MMMNA calculated according to 130 CMR 520.026(B)(1) or it exceeds a court order for the support of the community spouse; or
 - (b) the institutionalized individual is subject to a court order for the support of the community spouse. The court-ordered amount of support must be used as the spousal-maintenance needs deduction when it exceeds the MMMNA calculated according to 130 CMR 520.026(B)(1) or it exceeds the amount resulting from a fair hearing.
- (C) Deductions for Family-Maintenance Needs.
- (1) The Division allows a deduction from the income of a long-term-care resident to provide for the maintenance needs of the following family members if they live with the community spouse:
- (a) a minor child — a child under age 21 of either member of the couple;
 - (b) a dependent child — a child over age 21 who is claimed as a dependent by either spouse for income-tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code;