***Commonwealth of Massachusetts***

***Executive Office of Health and Human Services***

## Office of Medicaid

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**Eligibility Operations Memo 18-06**

 **October 15, 2018**

TO: MassHealth Eligibility Operations Staff

FROM: Amy Dybas, Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Member Policy Implementation, Training, and Communications

RE:Average Cost of Nursing Facility Services ****

**Introduction**

In accordance with 130 CMR 520.019(G)(1), MassHealth must impose a period of ineligibility for payment of nursing facility services when it has determined that a MassHealth applicant or member has made a disqualifying transfer of resources.

When calculating the period of ineligibility, MassHealth uses the average cost to a patient paying privately for nursing facility services in the Commonwealth. Periodically, this figure is revised to reflect increased costs.

**Revised Average Cost of Nursing Facility Services**

The average cost to a person paying privately for nursing facility services in the Commonwealth is being **increased** from $354 to $366.73 a day. This increase will take effect on **November 1, 2018**.

When calculating the period of ineligibility for a disqualifying transfer of resources, use the date that MassHealth received the application or eligibility review form in order to determine which amount should be used.

* If an application is received **before** November 1, 2018, use $354.
* If an application is received **on or after** November 1, 2018, use $366.73.

**Questions**

If you have any questions about this memo, please have your MEC designee contact the Policy Hotline.

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