***Commonwealth of Massachusetts***

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

*www.mass.gov/masshealth*

**Eligibility Operations Memo 20-17**

**November 1, 2020**

TO: MassHealth Eligibility Operations Staff

FROM: Heather Rossi, Deputy Policy Director for Eligibility [Signature of Heather Rossi]

# RE: Average Cost of Nursing Facility Services

## Introduction

 This EOM provides the new average cost of nursing facility services that MassHealth will begin using on November 1, 2020, to calculate a period of ineligibility.

If a MassHealth applicant or member has made a disqualifying transfer of resources, MassHealth must impose a period of ineligibility for payment of nursing facility services. See 130 CMR 520.019(G)(1): *Financial Eligibility.*

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

Effective **November 1, 2020,** the average cost to a person paying privately for nursing facility services in the Commonwealth is being **increased** from $367.21 to $391.00 a day.

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

* If an application is received **before** November 1, 2020, use $367.21
* If an application is received **on or after** November 1, 2020, use $391.00.

## Questions

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