



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111

MassHealth
Long Term Care Facility Bulletin 70
January 2000

TO: Nursing Facilities, Chronic Disease and Rehabilitation Inpatient Hospitals, and Rest Homes Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Mark E. Reynolds, Acting Commissioner

RE: 2000 Social Security Benefit Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) for Residents of Skilled-Care Facilities

Background

A Social Security cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) increased the monthly benefits for recipients of Retirement/Survivors/Disability Insurance (RSDI) by 2.4%, effective January 1, 2000.

**Patient Paid Amount
Increase for Residents
of Skilled-Care
Facilities**

An increase in monthly income will, in most instances, result in an increase to the monthly patient-paid-amount (PPA) for skilled-care facility residents. COLA increases must be applied toward claims submitted to the Division of Medical Assistance for January 2000 and each month thereafter.

Recently, system-generated notices of new PPAs were mailed to members, spouses, and responsible parties. Card notices indicating old and new PPAs for each member were mailed to affected providers.

**Patient Paid Amount
Increase for Residents
of Rest Homes**

Effective January 1, 2000, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment amount for residents of rest homes increased by \$12 per month, resulting in a \$12 per month increase in the PPA. This increase must be applied to claims submitted to the Division of Medical Assistance for January 2000 and each month thereafter. The minimum PPA will be \$745.

***Personal Needs
Allowance***

- The personal needs allowance (PNA) for MassHealth members in nursing facilities and chronic disease hospitals is \$60 per month.
 - The PNA for SSI recipients in rest homes is \$60 per month.
 - The PNA for SSI recipients in nursing facilities and chronic disease hospitals is \$65 per month.
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Questions

If you have questions about the information in this bulletin, please call the MassHealth Policy Hotline at (617) 210-5331.
