



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 74
December 2000

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

FROM: Wendy E. Warring, Commissioner

RE: **2001 Social Security Benefit Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Residents of Skilled-Care Facilities**

Background

Effective January 1, 2001, a Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increased monthly benefits for recipients of Retirement/Survivors/Disability Insurance (RSDI) by 3.5%.

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 2001, and for each month thereafter.

Recently, system-generated notices about the 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, 2001, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment amount for residents of rest homes increased by \$18 per month, resulting in an \$18 per month increase in the PPA. This increase must be applied to claims submitted to the Division of Medical Assistance for January 2001, and for each month thereafter. The minimum PPA will be \$763.

Personal Needs Allowances

The personal needs allowance (PNA) for MassHealth members in nursing facilities and chronic disease hospitals remains \$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.

Questions

Questions about the information in this bulletin should be directed to the MassHealth Policy Hotline at (617) 210-5331.
