



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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MassHealth
Long Term Care Facility Bulletin 97
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TO: Nursing Facilities, Chronic Disease and Rehabilitation Inpatient Hospitals, and Psychiatric Inpatient Hospitals Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Tom Dehner, Medicaid Director *TD*

RE: **MassHealth and the Federal Economic Stimulus Tax Rebates**

Background

Under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, the United States Treasury will begin sending economic stimulus tax rebates to more than 130 million eligible households, starting in May 2008. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued guidelines when determining eligibility for benefits under any federal program or any state or local program financed in whole or in part with federal funds. This includes MassHealth, the Children's Medical Security Plan (CMSP), Healthy Start, Commonwealth Care, and the Health Safety Net.

Income

The economic stimulus rebate is considered noncountable income.

Assets

The economic stimulus rebate is considered a noncountable asset for a limited time only. It is considered noncountable in the month of receipt and the following two calendar months (the exemption period).

Transfers of resources for less than fair-market value

If the rebate is given away during the three-month exemption period, it will not be subject to a transfer penalty. However, if it is given away after the three-month exemption period, the rebate will be subject to a penalty.

Estate recovery

If the rebate becomes part of a person's estate during the three-month exemption period, it will not be subject to recovery. However, if it becomes part of the person's estate after the three-month exemption period, the rebate will be subject to recovery.

Questions

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900, e-mail your inquiry to providersupport@mahealth.net, or fax your inquiry to 617-988-8974.
