



OPERATIONAL MEMO

OPERATIONAL MEMO NUMBER: HCPF OM 18-013

TITLE: HOME MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE INCREASE

SUPERSEDES NUMBER: N/A

ISSUE DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

EFFECTIVE DATE: JULY 1, 2018

DIVISION AND OFFICE: HEALTH INFORMATION OFFICE

PROGRAM AREA: ELIGIBILITY POLICY

APPROVED BY: CHRIS UNDERWOOD

KEY WORDS: HOME MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE, 6-MONTH STAY, HMA, PATIENT PAYMENT

HCPF Memo Series can be accessed online: <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/memo-series>

Purpose and Audience:

The Home Maintenance Allowance (HMA) will increase beginning July 1, 2018. Additionally, any increase to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) due to a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will result in a yearly increase to the HMA beginning January 1, 2019.

This memo is intended for long term care eligibility workers at eligibility sites and for skilled nursing facilities billing staff.

Background:

The HMA is an adjustment to patient liability for Health First Colorado recipients in a nursing facility. The intent of this allowance is to provide individuals with no family in the home, to maintain their home during temporary nursing facility stays. The HMA is limited to 6 months and requires a physician statement documenting return to the community is reasonable within 6 months, is based on actual verified home maintenance expenses and cannot exceed the HMA Maximum.

Information/Procedure:

The HMA Maximum includes the following components:

The verified utility costs not exceeding the Heating and Cooling Utility Allowance (HCUA) of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):

Lesser of actual verified utility expenses or \$469

Individual Needs Standard:

\$2,310.39

105% FPL for a Household of 1:

\$1,062.60

HMA Maximum January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018:

\$270

HMA Maximum July 1, 2018:

\$1,248 (rounded to the nearest whole dollar)

The HMA will be calculated based on verified expenses and the result will be communicated to the skilled nursing facility on the 5615 as part of the patient payment calculation.

Eligibility workers, skilled nursing facility billing staff, members and/ or anyone assisting the member should coordinate as much as possible through any means that are reasonable (email, mail, fax, etc.) in order to secure the verifications necessary to calculate the HMA.

Patient payments may be retroactively adjusted on the 5615 for nursing facility costs incurred beginning July 1, 2018.

Attachments:

None

Department Contact:

Medicaid.eligibility@hcpf.state.co.us