

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL NO. 05-14, CHANGES RELATED TO 2015 COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)

DATE: MARCH 2, 2015

Manual: Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid

Change No: 05-14

To: County Directors of Social Services

Effective: January 1, 2015

I. BACKGROUND

- A. The 2015 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is 1.7 percent for Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. Social Security benefits increased by 1.7 percent effective December 2014. These benefits are payable in January 2015.
- B. The Veteran Affairs (VA) cost-of-living adjustment is the same percentage as the Social Security benefits. Veterans will receive their increase in the January 2015 payment.
- C. The Social Security Act contains provisions for the protection of income and resources when an institutionalized spouse has a community spouse. SSI and spousal impoverishment standards for 2015 are updated throughout the ABD manual as applicable.

II. CONTENT OF CHANGE

- A. MA-2110, Pass-along examples and Pickle Chart are updated.
- B. MA 2130, Qualified Beneficiaries-Q, resource amounts are updated.
- C. MA 2140, Qualified Beneficiaries-B, resource amounts are updated.
- D. MA-2231, Community Spouse Resource Protection, spousal resource allowance and examples are updated to reflect current amounts.
- E. MA-2240, Transfer of Assets, home equity amount is updated.

- F. MA-2242, Home Equity Value & Eligibility for Institutional Services, home equity amount is updated.
- G. MA-2250, Income, has been revised to adjust the Student Income Exclusion in IX.D.3.
- H. MA-2270, Long Term Care Need and Budgeting, Tables A, B, and C are updated with the minimum Medicaid reimbursement rates for ICF/MR, Hospice Care and the actual rates for hospital inappropriate level of care beds.
- I. MA-2311, LIS Processing and Case Maintenance, resource limits updated.
- J. MA-2360, Medicaid Deductible, Medicare Part A and Part B premium, deductible and co-insurance amounts are updated, including all related examples.
- K. MA-2525, Disability, substantial gainful activity (SGA) is updated.
- L. DMA-5179, MAABD Eligibility Overview Chart, is updated.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Effective January 1, 2015.

IV. MAINTENANCE OF MANUAL

- A. Remove: MA-2110, Pass-along, pages 3-6, 9 & 10.
Insert: [MA-2110](#), Pass-along, pages 3-6, 9 & 10.
- B. Remove: MA-2130, Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries-Q, pages 1-2.
Insert: [MA-2130](#), Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries-Q, pages 1-2.
- C. Remove: MA-2140, Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries-B, pages 1-2.
Insert: [MA-2140](#), Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries-B, pages 1-2.
- D. Remove: MA-2231, Community Spouse Resource Protection, pages 7-12.
Insert: [MA-2231](#), Community Spouse Resource Protection, pages 7-12.
- E. Remove: MA-2240, Transfer of Assets, pages 1-2.
(XII.A. 1-3 removed, XII.B. & C. removed)
Insert: [MA-2240](#), Transfer of Assets, pages 1-2.
- F. Remove: MA-2242, Home Equity Value & Eligibility for Institutional Services, pages 1-2.
Insert: [MA-2242](#), Home Equity Value & Eligibility for Institutional Services, pages 1-2.

- G. Remove: MA-2250, Income, pages 95-96.
Insert: [MA-2250](#), Income, pages 95-96.**
- H. Remove: MA-2270, Long Term Care Need and Budgeting, tables i, & ii.
Insert: [MA-2270](#), Long Term Care Need and Budgeting, tables i, & ii.**
- I. Remove: MA-2311, LIS Processing and Case Maintenance, pages 1-2, 5-6.
Insert: [MA-2311](#), LIS Processing and Case Maintenance, pages 1-2, 5-6.**
- J. Remove: MA-2360, Medicaid Deductible, pages 15-16 & 19-20.
Insert: [MA-2360](#), Medicaid Deductible, pages 15-16 & 19-20.**
- K. Remove: MA-2525, Disability, pages 11-12.
Insert: [MA-2525](#), Disability, pages 11-12.**
- L. Remove: DMA-5179, MAABD Eligibility Overview Chart.
Insert: [DMA-5179](#), MAABD Eligibility Overview Chart revised 02/01/2015.**

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Operational Support Team at ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Robin Gary Cummings, MD
Deputy Secretary for Health Services
Director, Division of Medical Assistance

(This material was researched and written by Arena Everett, Policy Consultant, Medicaid Eligibility Unit)