



TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

KYLE L. JANEK, M.D.
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

Memorandum

To: Program Support Units
Program Management
Operations Coordination

From: Emily Zalkovsky
Director for Program Management
Medicaid/CHIP Division

Subject: HCBS STAR+PLUS Waiver Adjustments in Room and Board and Copayment
Amounts for Assisted Living and Adult Foster Care Effective January 1, 2015

Issuance Date: December 1, 2014
Effective Date: December 1, 2014

HHSC: 14-11-004

This memorandum applies to the HCBS STAR+PLUS Waiver (SPW).

This memorandum is being issued to inform Program Support Unit (PSU) staff of the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2015. It also provides guidelines for the room and board and copayment adjustments for SPW programs.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have announced a 1.7% COLA increase in federal benefits, and the Social Security Administration (SSA) will adjust benefits effective January 1, 2015. In response, the room and board (R&B) and copayment amounts must be adjusted effective January 1, 2015, for members living in Adult Foster Care (AFC) and Assisted Living (AL) settings.

Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) will send PSUs a list of members living in AFC and AL settings to assist with the review by December 1, 2014. PSU Staff must verify and review changes in the member's federal benefits to adjust R&B and copayment amounts accordingly. Reviews and verifications of all individuals and members residing in AFC and AL settings must be completed by December 16, 2014.

The R&B amount is a calculation based on the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) federal benefit rate minus the personal need allowance (PNA). According to the SSA website

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(<http://www.ssa.gov/oact/cola/SSI.html>), the January 2015 SSI amount is \$733.00. The PNA will remain \$85.00.

For a member who receives SSI, the R&B amount is \$648.00 (\$733 minus \$85 = \$648). The member who receives SSI does not pay a copayment; therefore, no other calculations are required.

For a member who does not receive SSI, the copayment determined by Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities (MEPD) will be available in the Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System beginning December 8, 2014. PSU staff must follow the specific program procedures below for calculating the R&B and copayment amounts and completing notification requirements.

Procedures

PSU staff will prepare Form 2065-D, Notification of STAR+PLUS Program Services, showing the new room and board and copayment amounts. Form 2065-D must be sent to the member and the MCO per Section 3236, Copayment and Room and Board, in the STAR+PLUS Handbook. In the comments section, add, "Your room and board and copayment amounts are increasing effective January 1, 2015, due to the cost-of-living increase in your federal benefits" Adjust the statement according to the member's circumstances. If only the room and board is increasing, then the copayment would not be included. Form 2065-D advising the member of the change must be sent no later than December 19, 2014.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, you may contact Allison Moss at 512-462-6376 or at allison.moss@hhsc.state.tx.us.