



North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance
Recipient Services EIS

1985 Umstead Drive – 2512 Mail Service Center - Raleigh, N.C. 27699-2512
Courier Number 56-20-06

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Nina M. Yeager, Director
(919) 857-4019

December 6, 2002

**RE: Recipient Notice of Changes in Policy
Regarding Transfer of Resources**

Dear County Director of Social Services:

An insert regarding a change in the transfer of resources policy will be mailed with the January 2003 Medicaid card. Current Medicaid policy imposes a sanction on long term care services when an individual transfers a countable asset for less than current market value. Effective February 1, 2003, the transfer of resources policy will also apply to certain individuals living in a private residence who request Medicaid assistance with in-home health services and supplies. This change in policy is applicable only to individuals receiving Medicaid under the MAA, MAB, MAD, and MQB-Q aid/program categories. A copy of the insert is attached.

In-home health services and supplies are medically necessary services provided to a recipient in a private residence or to a recipient receiving Medicaid only (not State/County Special Assistance) in an Adult Care Home. These services include the following:

- Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and related medical supplies such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, hospital beds, oxygen and oxygen equipment, needed to maintain or improve a recipient's medical, physical, or functional level.
- Home Health Services covers skilled nursing, physical therapy, speech pathology and audiology, and occupational therapy to help restore, rehabilitate or maintain a recipient in the home.
- Home Health Supplies include items such as adult diapers, disposable bed pans, catheter and ostomy supplies provided by a Home Health or Private Duty Nursing (PDN) agency.

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- Home Infusion Therapy (HIT) covers self-administered therapies such as nutrition therapy (tube feeding), drug therapy including chemotherapy for cancer treatments, antibiotic therapy and pain management therapy.
- Personal Care Services (PCS) are personal care activities performed by an in-home aide such as bathing, toileting, monitoring vital signs, housekeeping and home management tasks essential for maintaining the recipient's health.

The insert explains to the recipient that a sanction may be imposed on assistance with in-home health services and supplies for a non-allowable transfer that occurs on or after February 1, 2003. Non-allowable transfers made prior to February 1, 2003 are not subject to this change in policy. The insert also explains that an individual who is ineligible for in-home health services and supplies due to a transfer of resources sanction may be eligible for other Medicaid covered services such as doctor visits, prescriptions, dental and vision care.

The Medicaid Manual Change Notice containing the new policy will be completed in January. You will be notified by terminal message when it is mailed and available on-line.

If you have any questions, please contact your Medicaid Program Representative.

Nina M. Yeager

Attachment

NOTICE TO MEDICAID RECIPIENTS

Effective February 1, 2003, Medicaid eligibility policy regarding transfer of resources will change. Individuals living in a private residence or an adult care home who are receiving Medicaid only under the Aged, Blind and Disabled programs **and** who transfer a resource for less than current market value on or after February 1, 2003, may be ineligible for assistance with in-home health services and supplies.

In-home health services and supplies include wheelchairs, canes, walkers, oxygen and oxygen equipment, physical therapy, speech pathology, adult diapers, disposable bedpans, catheter and ostomy equipment, tube feeding, drug therapy, bathing, toileting, and monitoring vital signs.

Individuals who are ineligible for in-home health services and supplies may be eligible for other Medicaid covered services such as doctor visits, prescriptions, dental and vision care.

If you have any questions about this change in policy, please contact your county department of social services or you may call the Medicaid Eligibility Unit toll-free through the CARE-LINE, Information and Referral Service, at 1-800-662-7030.

North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance

January 2003