



**Connecticut Department of Social Services
Medical Assistance Program
Provider Bulletin**

PB 2009-20

June 2009

TO: Nursing Facilities, Chronic Disease Hospitals, ICFs/MR and Managed Care Organizations

SUBJECT: Personal Needs Allowance Increase

This bulletin serves to notify long term care facilities (Nursing Facilities, Chronic Disease Hospitals and Intermediate Care Facilities/Mentally Retarded) of changes in the monthly personal needs allowance for Medicaid clients residing in these facilities. Effective July 1, 2009, the monthly personal needs allowance will increase from \$65 to \$69.

Clients receiving Improved Pensions from the Veterans' Administration (V.A.) will be allowed to keep the amount of their Improved Pensions **in addition to** the personal needs allowance for a total of \$159 per month effective July 1, 2009. V.A. Improved Pensions have historically been limited to \$90 per month and are paid to institutionalized veterans (or their surviving spouses) without dependents.

Medicaid clients who receive reduced Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits of \$30 may be eligible to receive cash benefits under the Department's State Supplement program. These State Supplement benefits, along with the SSI benefits, will bring their monthly incomes to \$69. In addition, clients receiving reduced SSI benefits amount of \$30 are not eligible for the one-time economic stimulus payment of \$250 from Social Security.

For Medicaid clients who receive the \$250 economic stimulus payment, the payment is not counted as income in the month of receipt. Additionally, it is not counted as an asset for the nine months following the month it is received. It does not affect Medicaid eligibility, applied income or benefits in this time period. Any part of the stimulus payment that remains in the tenth month after receipt will then become countable as an asset.

Please contact Steve Markoski in the Adult Support Unit at (860) 424-5524 if you have any questions regarding the above update.

This bulletin and other program information can be found at **www.ctdssmap.com**.

Questions regarding this bulletin may be directed to the EDS Provider Assistance Center - Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at:

In-state toll free : 800-842-8440 or

Out-of-state or in the

local Farmington, CT area 860-269-2028

EDS

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