

Aging and People with Disabilities

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Issue date: 12/12/2014

Topic: Medical Benefits

Subject: 2015 Cost of Living Adjustments

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): OHA |

Message:

This Information Memorandum explains the impact of SSA Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) on OSIPM and Medicare Savings Program (QMB/SMB/SMF) eligibility for 2015.

Effective January 1, 2015, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will implement a 1.7% COLA for Social Security recipients. This includes Social Security payments under Title II of the Social Security Act (both SSB and SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) under Title XVI of the Social Security Act.

Both the Client Maintenance System (CMS) and Oregon ACCESS will be automatically updated to reflect the increased Social Security amounts. These updates are scheduled to occur on the night of December 26th. The systems will apply a 1.7% increase to all Social Security amounts on file. Staff should NOT manually update CMS or Oregon ACCESS to reflect 2015 benefit figures prior to the automatic update. If you create a case for a new client after the automatic update on the 26th, you will need to enter 2014 SSA income to determine eligibility for December. You will then need to manually update amounts to reflect the 2015 COLA adjusted figures.

For 2015, the SSI Standard will be \$ 733.00.

This COLA will also have the following Impacts:

SSI/OSIPM Related Standards Changes:

The 2015 OSIPM standards are as follows:

OSIPM Adjusted Income Standards				
	One Person in Need Group		Two People in Need Group	
Adjusted No. in Household	One	Two or More	Two	Three or More
AB/AD/OAA	\$ 733.00	\$ 488.67	\$ 1100.00	\$ 733.34

The Long Term Care Countable Income Standard (300% of SSI): \$ 2,199.00

OSIPM and QMB Shelter-in-Kind Standard:

	Total Shelter	Housing Costs Only
Single Person, Living Alone	\$ 450.00	\$ 270.00
Single Person, Living with Others	\$ 208.00	\$125.00
Couple, Living Alone	\$ 557.00	\$ 334.00
Couple, Living with Others	\$ 206.00	\$ 124.00

Room and Board and PIF: For CBC cases other than MH residential treatment, the COLA adjusted Room and Board and Personal Incidental amounts are as follows:

CBC Room and Board: \$ 570.00

CBC PIF = remaining client funds after R&B and client liability are deducted.

Residential MH Treatment: For clients in 24-hour residential MH treatment, the R&B rate will be: \$ 570.00

The Children's Room and Board amount: \$ 733.00

The Title IV-E Children's Room and Board Allowance:

4ER – Title IV-E funded Room and Board – \$ 570.00

4ES – Title IV-E Room and Board Supplement – \$ 163.00

Resource Assessment:

The maximum Community Spouse Monthly income allowance in OAR 461-16-0620 (3)(d)(A) will be \$ 2,980.50.

The Community Spouse's maximum share of the couple's combined countable resources in OAR 461-160-0580 (2)(c)(A) and -0580 (2)(f)(A) will be \$ 119,220.00.

The Community Spouse's minimum share of the couple's combined countable resources in OAR 461-160-0580 (2)(c)(B) and -0580 (2)(f)(B) will be \$ 23,844.00.

Medicare Part B Premium: The Medicare premium is not changing for 2015 and will remain \$104.90

Medicare Savings Programs:

The QMB-BAS, QMB-SMB, QMB-SMF, QMB-QDW resource limits for 2015 are as follows:

One in the need group	2 or more in the need group
\$7,280.00	\$10,930.00

The Medicare Savings Program income standards are based upon the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The annual FPL increase is generally announced in January or February each year. Under federal statute, current MSP eligible have protected eligibility until the month after the month in which the new FPL standards are published. In order to ensure that the January COLA increase does not render current MSP recipients ineligible pending the FPL increase, the Client Maintenance (CM) system will be modified to apply MSP standards that are inflated by the COLA percentage. Current MSP eligibles will retain eligibility in the current program until the FPL changes are implemented, which will likely occur on March 1, 2015, but the exact date will depend on when the annual FPL increase is announced.

New MSP applicants must be assessed under the MSP standards published in OAR, which will not be inflated by the COLA percentage.

EPD Participant Fee: So as to not disrupt EPD Participant Fee calculations pending the implementation of new FPL standards for 2015, Central Office is adding a 1.7% increase to the Participant Fee calculation standards. Effective January 1, the new income ranges will be as follows:

Client Income	Participant Fee
Under \$743.00	\$ 0
\$743.00 - \$989.99	\$ 50.00
\$990.00 - \$2,473.99	\$100.00
\$2,474.00 and above	\$150.00

Please note that the standards used for EPD Participant Fees are not changing. The above numbers only reflect changes to the UCMS amounts used to calculate Participant Fees for existing EPD clients until the Federal Poverty Level changes in February, 2015. Please continue to calculate EPD Participant Fees using the current standards for new applicants until notified.

Pickle Eligibility: Clients eligible for OSIPM under the Pickle Amendment will have their income evaluated based on the new table, found in OAR 461-135-0780.

Home Exclusion Limit:

Maximum Equity Value of a Home (OAR 461-145-0220): \$ 552,000.00. Please note that beginning January 2015, MAGI eligible clients applying for APD Administered services are subject to this home equity maximum. Additional information regarding this policy change will be released in a separate transmittal.

Client Liability: The application of the client liability will occur at different times, depending upon the Long Term Care placement.

Nursing Facilities: New liability amounts for January 2015 will be automatically calculated using the COLA adjusted income figures and applied to January service months. Staff are required to send an updated 458A form to the nursing facility.

APD/DD Community Based Care Facilities: No action is necessary. New liability amounts for January 2015 will be automatically calculated using the COLA adjusted income figures and applied to January service months for individuals paid through the CBC/512 system.

AMH Residential Treatment: Mental Health Residential Treatment Liabilities for clients in 24-hour residential MH treatment, the system will deduct \$753.00 from the client's income in order to calculate the offset/liability, in cases where the client is required to pay an offset/liability.

In-home Care Settings:

- For clients in existing in home placements as of December 31, 2014:
 - Client liability will be automatically calculated using the new COLA adjusted income figures for January 2015. However, **the new amount should not be**

applied to the pay-in system until the February 2015 service month.

While a Timely and Continuous notice is not required, staff must provide a basic notice to clients describing the pay-in change. The notice must be received by clients prior to February 1, 2015.

- There may be circumstances in which the worker must make a change to liability/pay-in for January for an ongoing in-home client to accommodate an approved cost. In these instances, add the approved cost into the appropriate tab in Oregon ACCESS, but do not use the Oregon ACCESS Pay-InN worksheet to determine the January pay-in amount, since it will already have been updated with figures to be used in February. Instead, determine the January pay-in by subtracting the approved cost from the December pay-in listed in SFMU.
- For clients who are newly placed in in-home settings in January 2015: Assess the client liability using the COLA adjusted figures and apply the calculated pay-in amount for the January service month.

SNAP: Only SNAP cases in CRS (change reporting) will get the automatic COLA update on January 1. SRS and TBA cases are excluded. The update will occur only if the correct CAN is coded in the Ben# field on the SSB, SSD, or SSI income line on page 2 of FSMIS.

For SNAP actions effective January 1, or later, use the 2015 SSA benefit amount once it becomes available. If you are taking an action on a case for January prior to the new amounts being available, use the current amount. Do not go back and change cases already processed after the amounts are updated.

If you are processing an action with a December 1 effective date, use the SSA amount the client will receive in December. Update FSMIS with the increased benefit amount when you process the next Interim Change Report (852) or recertification.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

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