



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203

AGENCY LETTER

AGENCY LETTER NUMBER: 17-011

SUPERSEDES NUMBER: HCPF 17-001.1

DATE: 12/22/2017

DIVISION OR OFFICE: HEALTH INFORMATION OFFICE ELIGIBILITY DIVISION

SUBJECT AREA: MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY

SUBJECT: 2018 SOCIAL SECURITY COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

TYPE: I – INFORMATION

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Purpose:

This letter is meant to advise counties and eligibility sites of the 2018 Social Security Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA). Please share this agency letter with all affected Adult and Long-Term Care Medicaid eligibility staff, supervisors, and outside agencies, as appropriate.

Background:

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits will increase due to a COLA of 2% in 2018. The purpose of the COLA is to ensure that the purchasing power of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits is not eroded by inflation. It is based on the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers from the third quarter of the last year a COLA was determined to the third quarter of the current year.

The 300% income limit, home equity maximum, minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance maximum and the community spouse resource allowance will increase. The Medicare Part B premium will also increase.

Beginning January 1, 2018, the Medicare Nursing Facility Co-Insurance Rate and the Income Trust Gross Income Limits and Average Nursing Facility Private Pay Rates will change. Additionally, the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) base amount for residents of

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Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities will increase by 3%, setting the 2018 PNA Base Amount at \$84.41.

Procedure or Information:

Supplemental Security Income Limits

	Effective January 1, 2018
Individual in own home	\$750
Individual in home of another	\$500
Couple in own home	\$1,125
Couple in home of another	\$750
In-kind Support and Maintenance maximum (ISM)	\$270
300% limit	\$2,250
Old Age Pension	\$788

Nursing Facility

Income Trust Gross Income Limits and Average Private Pay Rate

	January 2017	January 2018
Region I Counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver and Jefferson	\$8,730	\$8,940
Region II Counties: Cheyenne, Clear Creek, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Grand, Jackson, Kit Carson, Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Park, Phillips, Sedgwick, Summit, Washington, Weld and Yuma	\$7,776	\$8,095
Region III Counties: Alamosa, Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Lake, Las Animas, Lincoln, Mineral, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Saguache, and Teller	\$7,352	\$7,605
Region IV Counties: Archuleta, Delta, Dolores, Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mesa, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, San Juan and San Miguel	\$7,559	\$6,674
Average Private Pay Rate	\$7,854	\$7,828

Medicare

	January 2017	January 2018
Medicare Part A – Hospital Insurance Seniors and certain individuals under 65 with fewer than 30 work quarters of Medicare covered employment	\$413	\$422
Medicare Part B Physician services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment and other items	\$109.40 and \$134	\$130 and \$134
Medicare Skilled Nursing Facility Co-insurance Days 21 thru 100 each benefit period	\$164.50	\$167.50

Spousal Protection

	January 1, 2017	January 1, 2018
Community Spouse Resource Allowance (CSRA)	\$120,900	\$123,600
Minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance (Maximum)	\$3,023	\$3,090

	July 1, 2016	July 1, 2017
Minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance (MMMNA)	\$2,003	\$2,030
Shelter Allowance (30% of MMMNA)	\$601	\$609

Home Equity Maximum

January 1, 2017	January 1, 2018
\$560,000	\$572,000

Nursing and Intermediate Care Facility Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)

2017 PNA base amount	Adjustment percent	2018 PNA
\$81.95	3%	\$84.41

Effective Date:

January 1, 2018

Contact:

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