

Policy Transmittal Aging and People with Disabilities



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Number: APD-PT-20-115

Issue date: 12/11/2020

CORRECTED

Topic: Medical Benefits

Due date:

Transmitting (check the box that best applies):

- New policy
 Policy change
 Policy clarification
 Executive letter
 Administrative Rule
 Manual update
 Other:

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: Type B | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive In Home Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs | |

Policy/rule title:	2021 Cost of Living Adjustments		
Policy/rule number(s):	461-135-0780, 461-145-0220, 461-155-0250, 461-155-0270, 461-160-0580, and 461-160-0620	Release number:	
Effective date:	January 1, 2021	Expiration date:	
References:	APD E.5, APD D.10, CCA B.34, MMA B, MMA C, OSIPM WG 2, OSIPM WG 6, OSIPM WG 8, OSIPM WG 9, OSIPM WG 12, OSIPM E.2, OSIPM E.4, OSIPM E.8, CM Tools – Pay-In, QMB E.4		
Web address:	http://www.dhs.state.or.us/spd/tools/additional/workergd/index.htm http://www.dhs.state.or.us/spd/tools/additional/assets/index.htm http://www.dhs.state.or.us/spd/tools/additional/mma/index.htm http://www.dhs.state.or.us/spd/tools/program/osip/index.htm http://www.dhs.state.or.us/spd/tools/program/qmb/index.htm		

Discussion/interpretation: This Policy Transmittal explains the impact of SSA Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) on OSIPM and Medicare Savings Program (QMB/SMB/SMF) eligibility for 2021.

Implementation/transition instructions: Effective January 1, 2021, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will implement a 1.3% 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.

For 2021, the SSI Standard will be \$794.00.

This COLA will also have the following impact:

SSI/OSIPM Related Standards Changes:

The 2021 OSIPM standards are as follows:

OSIPM Adjusted Income Standards		
Number in Need Group	One	Two
AB/AD/OAA	794.00	1,191.00

The Long-Term Care Countable Income Standard (300% of SSI): \$2,382.00

Community-Based Care Maintenance Standard: \$794.00

In-Home Services Maintenance Standard: \$1,294.00

The Home Equity Exclusion Limit: \$603,000.00

Allocating and Deeming: The maximum allocation rate for non-applying children in OSIPM will increase to \$397 per month.

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: \$617.00

CBC PIF: Remaining client funds after R&B and client liability are deducted. This amount will be \$177 for most.

Nursing Facility PIF: The PIF for NF and ICF-ID residents who are not receiving VA aid and attendance benefits is increasing to \$64.94.

Residential MH Treatment: For clients in 24-hour residential MH treatment, the R&B rate will be \$617.00

The Children’s Room and Board amount: \$794.00

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

4ER – Title IV-E funded Room and Board: \$617.00

4ES – Title IV-E Room and Board Supplement: \$177.00

Resource Assessment:

The maximum Community Spouse Monthly income allowance in OAR 461-160-0620 (3)(d)(A) will be \$ 3,259.50.

The Community Spouse’s maximum share of the couple’s combined countable resources in OAR 461-160-0580 (2)(c)(A) and (2)(f)(A) will be \$ 130,380.00.

The Community Spouse’s minimum share of the couple’s combined countable resources in OAR 461-160-0580 (2)(c)(B) and (2)(f)(B) will be \$ 26,076.00.

Medicare Part B Premium

The Medicare Part B premium will be \$148.50 for most of our clients; however, CBI clients who became Medicare-eligible prior to 2021 may have a lower Medicare Part B premium amount. All individuals who begin receiving Medicare in 2021 will be charged the higher rate of \$148.50. Please do not make updates to cases in Legacy or ONE at this time.

Medicare Savings Programs

The resource limits for the QMB-BAS, QMB-SMB, and QMB-SMF were eliminated effective January 1, 2016.

The resource limits for the QMB-DW program are as follows:

One in the need group	2 or more in the need group
\$4,000	\$6,000

The Medicare Savings Program (MSP) income standards are based upon the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The annual FPL increase is generally announced in January or February each year and normally implemented in March. 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-eligible individuals – those receiving MSP benefits as of December 31, 2020 – will retain eligibility in the current program until the FPL changes are implemented, which will likely occur on March 1, 2021; however, the exact date will depend on when the annual FPL increase is announced.

- For existing cases in Legacy, the income standards will be inflated by the COLA percentage to prevent change
- For existing cases in ONE, the system will apply a disregard equal to the COLA amount to SSA income to prevent changes. *Please note that COVID provisions already prevent reductions from QMB to SMB or SMF in the ONE system.*

New MSP applicants must be assessed under the MSP standards published in OAR. For cases in Legacy, this must be done manually because it is not possible for the CM system to apply the inflated standards only to existing cases.

EPD Participant Fee

To avoid the disruption of EPD participant fee calculations for pending the implementation of the 2021 FPL standards, Central Office is taking the following actions:

- For existing EPD cases in Legacy, Central Office is adding a 1.3% increase to the participant fee calculation standards. Effective January 1, the new income ranges will be as follows:

Client Income	Participant Fee
Under \$809	\$0
\$809 - \$1077.99	\$50.00
\$1078 - \$2693.99	\$100.00
\$2694 and above	\$150.00

- For existing EPD cases in ONE, Central Office will be applying disregards to countable income to avoid increases in calculated Participant Fees. Please note that COVID provisions already prevent any actual increases, but the COLA disregard will prevent the recalculation.

Client Liability

Increases to client liability are currently prohibited during the COVID-19 emergency period – further guidance on what actions will be taken by branch offices and Central Office will be forthcoming.

Legacy System Updates:

Because of the COVID-19 emergency period provisions and the upcoming Wave 2

conversion, Central Office is in the process of identifying what changes need to be made to cases as a result of the 2021 COLA updates. More information about what specific actions must be taken in Legacy will be provided in a subsequent transmittal. This includes changes to the CBI amount or SSA-based income amounts. Please do not make updates at this time.

ONE Case Updates

More information about what, if any, actions need to be taken by eligibility workers will be provided in future communications. Please do not make updates at this time.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Adverse actions are prohibited during the COVID-19 emergency period. If you see that a closure, reduction, or increase in liability has occurred outside of the exceptions allowed in OAR [461-135-0880](#), please contact apd.medicaidpolicy@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Training/communication plan: APD policy manuals, training material, forms, and systems will be updated.

Local/branch action required: Please review this policy transmittal with staff who determine eligibility for OSIPM and Medicare Savings Programs.

Central office action required: Update worker guides and training materials and provide technical assistance as needed.

Field/stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by: APD Policy and Operations, Deloitte, BOTS

Filing instructions:

If you have any questions about this policy, contact:

Contact(s): APD.MedicaidPolicy@dhsosha.state.or.us	
Phone:	Fax:
Email:	