

Administrative Letter No. 09-08, Change in the Domiciliary Rate and Maintenance Amount for SA In-Home (SA/IH) Cases (Obsolete 03/01/2010, Change Notice 02-10)

N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services, Adult Services Section

Date: April 21, 2009
Subject: Change in the Domiciliary Rate and Maintenance Amount for SA In-Home (SA/IH) Cases
Distribution: County Directors
Special Assistance Supervisors
Adult Services Supervisors
Effective Date: May 1, 2009

To be eligible for SA/IH, an applicant/recipient (a/r) must first be eligible for Medicaid under one of the Medicaid categorically needy classifications (class N, C, or Q) in a Private Living Arrangement. This includes meeting the income and resources requirements using the MAABD budgeting rules, which may differ from the SA/ACH or SA/IH rules. This normally means the SA/IH a/r has countable income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL). While most SA/IH a/rs will have countable income at or below the FPL, it has come to Division's attention that there are some rare exceptions to the Medicaid categorically needy income limit rule. It is possible for an individual to receive Medicaid as categorically needy, and therefore qualify for SA/IH, with countable income higher than the FPL.

An example of this is if an a/r is Medicaid categorically needy due to qualifying for Medicaid under the Medicaid Passalong guidelines. See [MA-2110, Passalong](#), for further information. Another example is that of a member of a Medicaid categorically needy couple, in which the SA/IH a/r has countable income above the FPL. This a/r could still be eligible for SA/IH as long as he/she meets the SA/IH eligibility criteria. There may be other examples not mentioned. The main rule is the a/r must first qualify for Medicaid under categorically needy guidelines, and meet all other SA/IH eligibility criteria.

To accommodate these exceptions in EIS, effective May 1, 2009, the SA/IH Domiciliary Rate in EIS is changed to \$1,207.00, which is also the Special Assistance Adult Care Home (SA/ACH) Basic rate. Effective May 1, 2009, the maximum SA/IH Maintenance Amount in EIS is changed to allow up to \$1,253.00, which is the SA/ACH Basic Maintenance Amount. A new online edit does not allow the SA/IH payment amount to exceed \$940.00.

The maximum SA/IH payment is calculated by subtracting the individual's total countable monthly income (TCMI) from the SA/ACH Basic maintenance amount, and then multiplying the remainder by .75. The actual SA/IH payment, up to the maximum allowable amount, is determined by the Adult Services case manager based on the comprehensive assessment and service plan.

I. SA/IH Cases Active on April 27, 2009

The following automated changes will be made in EIS to all SA/IH cases (ambulation capacity code 'H') that are active in EIS the night of April 27, 2009.

- A. The Domiciliary Rate will change from \$903 to \$1,207.
- B. A new online edit will prevent a payment amount greater than \$940.00.
- C. A Case Profile will be created for each updated case, with the message:

“MASS CHANGE DUE TO SA IN-HOME RATE INCREASE”.

- D. A report will be created in NCXPTR identifying the SA/IH cases that were updated during the mass change. The report is entitled ‘**DHREJA SA IN-HOME RATE INCREASE**’. This report will be available April 28, 2009. The report is sorted by county, district number and in alphabetical order by Casehead Payee. The report will include:
1. Casehead Payee Name
 2. Case ID Number
 3. Old Domiciliary Rate
 4. New Domiciliary Rate
 5. District Number
- E. There will be a report in NCXPTR identifying the SAA and SAD cases that were not updated in the mass change due to a pending DSS-8125. The report is entitled ‘**DHREJA SA IN-HOME ERROR RPT**’. This report will be available April 28, 2009. The report is sorted by county and district number, and is in alphabetical order by Casehead Payee Name. Items on the report include:
1. Casehead Payee Name
 2. Case ID Number
 3. Old Domiciliary Rate
 4. District Number
 5. Error Message: 8125 Pending and 8125 form number

II. SA/IH Applications Pending on May 1, 2009

- A. Determine eligibility for SA/IH payments using the new TCMI limit of \$1,252.50 effective May 1, 2009 and later. For months prior to May 2009, determine eligibility using the TCMI limit of \$903.00 unless the a/r was eligible for Medicaid categorically needy. Then use the new TCMI limit of \$1,252.50.
- B. If eligible, approve the SA/IH application with a Payment Effective Date of 05/2009 (or later if eligibility begins in a later month).
1. The TCMI cannot be greater than \$1,252.50.
 2. The Domiciliary Rate must be \$1,207.00.
 3. The SA/ACH Basic maintenance amount is \$1,253 (\$1,207 + \$46 Personal Needs Allowance). The SA/IH maintenance amount cannot be greater than \$1,253. When keying an SA/IH case in EIS, the maintenance amount must equal the TCMI + the SA/IH payment amount.
 4. The maximum allowable payment for an individual is \$940.00, and is calculated as follows:
$$\$1,253 \times 0.75 \text{ (75\% of the maximum SA/ACH Basic payment for this income amount)} = \$939.75 \text{ rounded to the nearest dollar} = \$940.00).$$
- C. If the applicant is eligible for an SA/IH payment for months prior to May 1, 2009, authorize payments for those months in the “Retro” fields on the DSS-8125.

III. Redeterminations and Changes in Situation

1. For regular reviews and for changes in situation, determine eligibility for SA/IH payments using the new TCMI limit of \$1,252.50 for May 1, 2009 and later.
2. For months prior to May 2009, determine eligibility using the TCMI limit of \$903, unless the person was Medicaid categorically needy. Then use the new TCMI limit of \$1,252.50.
3. The Domiciliary Rate must be \$1,207.00.
4. The SA/ACH Basic maintenance amount is \$1,253 (\$1,207 + \$46 Personal Needs Allowance). The SA/IH maintenance amount cannot be greater than \$1,253. When keying an SA/IH case in EIS, the maintenance amount must equal the TCMI + the SA/IH payment amount.
5. The maximum allowable payment for an individual is \$940.00, and is calculated as follows:

$\$1,253 \times 0.75$ (75% of the maximum SA/ACH Basic payment for this income amount) = \$939.75 rounded to the nearest dollar = \$940.00).

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your [Adult Programs Representative](#).

Sincerely,

Dennis W. Streets
Director

DWS/bfp