

Administrative Letter No. 09-16 - Reduction in the Special Assistance Adult Care Home (SA/ACH) Basic Rate and Maximum Maintenance Amount Effect on Special Assistance 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: August 31, 2009

Subject: Reduction in the Special Assistance Adult Care Home (SA/ACH) Basic Rate and Maximum Maintenance Amount Effect on Special Assistance In-Home (SA/IH) Cases

Distribution: County Directors
Special Assistance Supervisors
Adult Services Supervisors

Effective Date: October 1, 2009

I. Background and Content of Change

Session Law 2009-451, the State's ratified budget, was signed by Governor Perdue August 7, 2009. The law contains a provision to decrease the maximum SA/ACH Basic facility rate effective October 1, 2009. The effect of this change on the SA/ACH Basic recipients is addressed in DAAS Administrative Letter 09-15.

These changes will affect the maximum allowable SA/IH payment for all SA In-Home cases, Ambulation Capacity Code "H". SA/IH payments can be no more than 75% of the SA/ACH Basic payment.

SA/IH payments reduced due to this change cannot be effective prior to November 1, 2009 due to EIS implementation of the reduced SA/ACH rate.

A. Maximum SA/ACH Basic Rate Change

Effective October 1, 2009:

1. The maximum SA/ACH Basic rate will decrease from \$1,207.00 to \$1,182.00.
2. The maximum Maintenance Amount for SA recipients with an Ambulation Capacity Code "B" will decrease from \$1,253.00 to \$1,228.00 (\$1,182.00 + \$46.00 personal needs allowance.)

B. EIS Mass Change for Ongoing Cases with Ambulation Capacity Code "H"

1. For each active SAA or SAD case in EIS with an Ambulation Capacity of "H" and Total Countable Monthly Income (TCMI) of \$1,227.50 or less, the night of September 25, 2009, **EIS will:**
 - a. Change the Domiciliary Rate to \$1,182.00
 - b. Will not change the Maintenance Amount.
 - c. Will not change the payment amount.
 - d. Income Maintenance Caseworkers (IMCs) must manually calculate the new maximum SA/IH payment and manually update the SA/IH case in EIS to reflect any payment changes. **See II. Below for further instructions.**
2. For each active SAA or SAD case with an Ambulation Capacity Code "H" and TCMI of \$1,227.51 - \$1,252.50, EIS will:
 - a. Terminate the case effective September 30, 2009.
 - b. The termination reason will be "04", "You have net income greater than allowed to receive Special Assistance (Section 3210)".
 - c. A notice will be included in the September SA checks informing recipients of a possible reduction in their payment beginning October 2009.
3. Case profiles will be created and mailed to the counties.

II. Implementing the Change – Manually Update SA/IH Payments as Appropriate

A. Ongoing SA/IH Cases Effective October 1, 2009

1. The maximum allowable payment for an individual is \$921.00, and is calculated as follows:

$\$1,228.00 \times 0.75$ (75% of the maximum SA/ACH Basic payment for this income amount) = \$921.00 rounded to the nearest dollar = \$921.00).

If eligible, authorize the new SA/IH Payment with an Effective Date of 11/2009.

2. The IMC must inform the case manager of the reduced maximum SA/IH payment amount. The case manager must approve the new SA/IH payment. See [SA-5300, Calculating Payments, II. A.](#)

Note: The SA/IH payment can be no more than the allowed maximum payment based on 75% of the new reduced SA/ACH Basic rate.

3. SA/IH payments based on the reduced SA/ACH Basic rate cannot be effective prior to November 1, 2009.
4. Notify the recipient of any change in their SA/IH payment effective November 1, 2009, by sending a timely notice [DSS-8110, Your Benefits Are Changing.](#)

B. SA/IH Applications Pending on October 1, 2009 – Payments Effective Prior to October 1, 2009.

EIS will not update these cases. Determine eligibility for SA/IH for payments prior to October 1, 2009.

1. If the applicant is eligible for an SA/IH payment for months prior to October 1, 2009, the payment effective date for the ongoing case must be October 1, 2009.
2. For Payments prior to October 1, 2009 the TCMI cannot be greater than \$1,252.50.
3. The Domiciliary Rate must be \$1,207.00.

The SA/ACH Basic Maintenance Amount is \$1,253.00 (\$1,207 + \$46.00 Personal Needs Allowance). The SA/IH Maintenance Amount cannot be greater than \$1,253.00. 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 prior to October 1, 2009 is \$940.00, and is calculated as follows:

$\$1,253.00 \times 0.75$ (75% of the maximum SA/ACH Basic payment for this income amount) = \$939.75 rounded to the nearest dollar = \$940.00).

5. If eligible, approve the SA/IH payments effective prior to October 1, 2009 in the **retro pay fields** on the EIS DSS-8125 screen.

C. SA/IH Applications Pending on October 1, 2009 – Payments Effective October 1, 2009 and ongoing.

EIS will not update these cases. Determine eligibility for SA/IH payments effective October 1, 2009 and ongoing using the TCMI limit of \$1,227.50.

1. If the applicant is eligible for an SA/IH payment effective October 1, 2009 and ongoing, authorize the payments using the new reduced SA/ACH Basic rate of \$1,228.00. The payment effective date must be October 1, 2009 or later.
2. The TCMI cannot be greater than \$1,227.50.
3. The Domiciliary Rate must be \$1,182.00.
4. The Maintenance Amount cannot be greater than \$1,228.00. 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 \$921.00, and is calculated as follows:

$\$1,228.00 \times 0.75$ (75% of the maximum SA/ACH Basic payment for this income amount) = \$921.00 rounded to the nearest dollar = \$921.00).

If eligible, approve the SA/IH payment effective October 1, 2009 in the ongoing field on the EIS DSS-8125 screen.

6. Do not approve applications with income greater than \$1,227.50.

D. Applications Taken on or After October 1, 2009

Determine eligibility for SA/IH payments for all applications taken on or after October 1, 2009, using the TCMI limit of \$1,227.50.

III. Reports

- A. **'SA IN HOME RATE DECREASE'**: This is a report in NCXPTR created to display all SAA and SAD cases updated in the mass change, and are sorted by county, district, and in alphabetical order by casehead payee last name.

The report includes:

1. County Number/Name
2. Casehead Payee Name (Last Name, MI, First Name)
3. District Number
4. Case ID Number
5. Total Countable Monthly Income
6. Old Maint Amount
7. New Maint Amount
8. Old Domiciliary Amount
9. New Domiciliary Amount
10. Old Payment Amount
11. New Payment Amount
12. Ambulation Capacity Code Before Mass Change
13. Ambulation Capacity Code After Mass Change

B. 'SA IN HOME CASES TERMINATED DUE TO RATE DECREASE':

This is a report in NCXPTR of all SAA and SAD cases that were terminated due to TCMI greater than \$1227.50.

The report includes:

1. County Number/Name
2. Casehead Payee Name (Last Name, MI, First Name)
3. District Number
4. Case ID Number
5. Total Countable Monthly Income
6. Ambulation Capacity Code Before Mass Change
7. Ambulation Capacity Code After Mass Change

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

Sincerely,

Dennis W. Streets, Director

DWS/SPM:bp

Attachment

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO
RECIPIENTS OF SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ADULTS**

September 1, 2009

The 2009 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly approved a change in the Special Adult Care (SA/ACH) Basic rate for most recipients of Special Assistance. Beginning October 1, 2009, the rate that you pay the facility each month is decreased from \$1,207 to \$1,182. Your SA check may be decreased beginning in October 1, 2009 because of the decrease in the rate you pay the facility.

The decrease in the SA/ACH Basic Rate also means that if you receive Special Assistance In-Home (SA/IH) your payment may decrease effective October 1, 2009, since the SA/IH payment is based on 75% of the new SA/ACH Basic payment amount.

Exception 1: There is a small group of people who will continue to pay a rate of \$1,207 per month. The rate for this group will not change.

Exception 2: There is no rate change for recipients residing in a Special Care Unit for Alzheimer's or related disorders. The Special Care Unit rate will remain \$1,515.00 per month.

Hearing Rights: If you disagree with this decision, you have a right to ask for a hearing. To ask for a hearing, call or write your caseworker within sixty (60) days from the date of this notice, which is October 30, 2009. If you do not ask for a hearing by that date, you cannot have a hearing. If you request a hearing, a local hearing will be held within 5 days of your request unless you ask for it to be postponed for good reason for an additional 10 days. The hearing will establish whether this action was correct. Then, if you think the decision in the local hearing was wrong, call or write your caseworker within 15 days of the local hearing to ask for a second hearing before a state hearing officer.

You may have someone speak for you at your hearing, such as a relative or an attorney obtained at your expense. Free legal services may be available in your community. Contact your caseworker for information on free legal services.

If you ask, your caseworker will show you and the person speaking for you your eligibility record before your hearing. You may ask to see other information used at the hearing.