

# **Policy Clarifications – Medical Assistance**

## **Long Term Care PMN16596468**

**Submitted: 04/13**

**Agency: CAOs**

**Citations:**

**Subject: LTC Facility Private Pay Rate and Coverage of Retroactive Medical Bills**

In the past, when a nursing home application was received with unpaid hospital/doctor bills, the caseworker – when processing – would enter the Nursing Home Private Pay rate as a non-covered medical expense (MCV code of N) to spend down the individual's income to the 6 month MNO limit. This caused the individual to be eligible for payment of retro medical bills with little or no Patient Pay Liability. The practice is not addressed in the new LTC Handbook. Should we assume now that the practice should cease?

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**Response By: Division of Health Services**

**Date:04/13**

Once the projected LTC facility private pay rate has been used to establish eligibility, it cannot be used again to determine payment of medical bills incurred during the retroactive period. However, the patient pay amount (i.e. the individual's payment toward the cost of care) can be used to determine payment for these unpaid medical bills from the retroactive period.

