

Policy Clarifications - Medicaid - Long Term Care PMN15058472

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Agency:CAOs

Citations:

Subject: 2010 Long-Term Care (LTC) Related Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

Will there be a 2010 automated COLA on LTC cases?

Response By: Division of Health Services

Date:12/16/09

No, the Social Security Administration announced that for the first time since 1975 there will be no increase in Social Security Retirement, Survivors, or Disability Insurance (RSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The same factors that determine changes in Social Security income also determine changes in many LTC-related figures.

Because there is no COLA for 2010 the Medicare Part B premium most individuals are expected to pay will remain \$96.40/month. Please see Policy Clarification [PMN-15050-450](#) and [Daily Status D-3304](#) for more information.

However, if an individual's Medicare Part B premium increases, the result of any increase will cause a decrease in the net Social Security cash benefit. In some cases, such as spousal cases, an increased cost of the Medicare Part B premium may cause an increase in the payment towards the cost of care. Changes in the payment towards cost of care caused by the increased Medicare Part B premium will need to be made in CIS no later than January 15, 2010 so that the change is effective for January 2010.

It is important to remember that it is the individual's responsibility to report changes within ten days. Although there will be no automated COLA, the county assistance office must continue to act on reported changes, including changes in adjustable pensions and other income, as they occur.