

# Policy Clarification – Medicaid – Long Term Care

## PMN 18674-440

### -REVISED- 1/26/18-

Submitted: 9/2017

Agency: CAOs

**Subject:** Resource Assessments for Long Term Care Medical Assistance (MA LTC) and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

**Question:** Is a Resource Assessment (PA1572) required when a married or separated individual applies for MA LTC, HCBS?

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**Response By:** Division of Health Services

**Date:** 9/6/2017

Yes, the CAO is to complete the resource assessment form for any applicant who indicates they are either married or separated on the application for benefits. This requirement is not based on the total amount of marital assets owned, **or current active budget (i.e. A, J, M SSI recipients)**. For example, if the applicant and the spouse own \$2,000 in countable resources, that does not exempt the CAO from completing a resource assessment. The CAO must follow procedure in LTC Handbook 440.92, and allot the community spouse up to the minimum protected share at the time of completion.

The resource assessment is based on all resources owned by both spouses on:

- The date one spouse is admitted to an LTC facility and is applying for MA LTC; or
- The date one spouse is admitted to an LTC facility for a continuous period of at least 30 days; or
- The date the spouse is assessed functionally eligible for HCBS.

**Note:** Because an applicant will often apply for MA LTC after submitting a PA1572, it is important to have an accurate calculation of the countable assets as of the dates listed above, and also at application to determine if any transfers or gifting had occurred once they apply.

An individual may complete a resource assessment and not apply for MA LTC. If an individual applies for MA LTC or HCBS, and there has been no prior resource assessment completed, the CAO is to have the applicant complete a PA1572 as part of the application process. The CAO will complete the resource assessment within 45 days from the date of receipt of the PA1572 and send the Results of Resource Assessment (PA1887) to the institutionalized spouse, community spouse and representative (if applicable). The resource assessment results will specify the total amount of countable resources, the amount of the spousal share, and the right to a fair hearing at the time of an application for MA LTC or HCBS.

The CAO is not to reject an application reason code 042 (failure to provide information) if the only item missing is a PA1572, and all resources are documented on the PA600L and verified. The CAO must still send the PA1887 to indicate the resource determination as part of the application process to all applicable parties.

**Reminder:** ALL resource assessments, results and all verification must be scanned to the record, and a thorough case comment entered. **When a resource assessment is completed for an individual who is either not applying for,** or who is not eligible for MA LTC or HCBS, the results must be entered in the MAPPER system. See LTC Handbook 440 Appendix E for MAPPER procedures.