

# Policy Clarification

## Medicaid – Long Term Care

### PMN-19076-468

**Submitted: 8/1/18**

**Agency: CAOs**

**Subject: October 2018 Mass Change**

**Questions:** 1) Will the Standard Utility Allowances (SUAs) used to compute the spousal allowance in LTC budgets change effective October 1, 2018? If so, will there be an automated mass change of Long Term Care (LTC) spousal records this October?

2) How must caseworkers process retroactive openings after the October mass change?

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**Response By: Division of Health Services**

**Date: 8/30/18**

1) Yes, the automated mass change for LTC spousal records will run the weekend of October 6, 2018. Three of the SUAs will change in October 2018. The SUAs that will increase are the Heating, Non-Heating, and Limited SUAs. The SUAs effective October 1, 2018 are:

<b>Heating Standard</b>	<b>\$588.00</b>
<b>Non-Heating Standard</b>	<b>\$308.00</b>
Homeless Standard	\$143.00
<b>Limited SUA</b>	<b>\$57.00</b>
Telephone SUA	\$33.00

In order for the change in the cost of care to be effective October 1, 2018, alerts generated with the automated mass change must be processed no later than October 31, 2018.

2) When the caseworker needs to process a retroactive opening for Long Term Care, and the start date entered on the Program Request screen is in August or any previous month, the caseworker must use a two-step process:

- Open non-continuous eligibility periods from the start of the retroactive period until September 30, 2018, then,
- Open an ongoing request with an October 1, 2018 start date.

The two-step process ensures that the correct reference table values for the SUA are used in the eligibility determination.

If the start date entered on the Program Request screen is in September or later, then the eligibility determination will use the correct reference table values.

Failure to follow this process for retroactive openings will lead to a cost of care that is higher than it should be for the period of October through December because eligibility will use only the reference table values effective October 1, 2017.

This policy clarification supersedes PMN-18666-468 October 2017 Mass Change.