

Policy Clarification

Long-Term Care – All

PMN-21893-468

Submitted: August 22, 2024

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Revised Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) Effective October 1, 2024

- Question:
- 1) Will the SUAs used to compute the spousal allowance in Long-Term Care (LTC) budgets change effective October 1, 2024? If so, will there be an automated mass change of spousal LTC records this October?
 - 2) How must caseworkers process retroactive openings after the October mass change?

Response By: Division of Health Services

Date: 08/23/2024

- 1) Yes, the automated mass change for LTC spousal records will run the weekend of October 6, 2024. Four of the SUAs will change in October 2024. The SUAs that will increase are the **Heating Standard, Non-Heating Standard, Homeless Standard, and Limited SUA**. The SUAs effective October 1, 2024, are:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Heating Standard | \$758.00 |
| Non-Heating Standard | \$402.00 |
| Homeless Standard | \$190.00 |
| Limited SUA | \$ 72.00 |
| Telephone SUA | \$ 34.00 |

The alerts generated by the automated mass change must be processed no later than October 31, 2024, for any cost of care changes to be effective by October 1, 2024.

- 2) When the caseworker needs to process a retroactive opening for LTC, 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, 2024, then,
- Open an ongoing request with an October 1, 2024, 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 higher than it should be for the period of October through December because eligibility will use only the reference table values effective October 1, 2023.

This policy clarification supersedes [PMN-21462-468](#), which is now obsolete.