

-Revised 08/10/12-

**Policy Clarifications  
Cash Assistance - All  
Medicaid - All  
PCA16208138  
PMA16208338**

**Submitted: 05/12**

**Agency: CAOs**

**Citations:**

**Subject: Lodging at Ronald McDonald House**

We have been advised by Ronald McDonald House staff that some CAOs provide a special allowance for lodging.

Since Ronald McDonald House policy is to provide lodging to everybody regardless of ability to pay, is there a need established under MA transportation policy for a special allowance?

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**Response By: Bureau of Policy**

**Date:05/30/12**

No payments shall be issued for lodging in a Ronald McDonald House facility.

55 Pa Code 175.23(b)(3) allows payment for other special transportation needs (including lodging) that are an “actual minimum cost of transportation and necessary related expenses which cannot be met from other resources.”

The following statement is found at the Ronald McDonald House Charities Frequently Asked Questions link: “The actual cost to operate a room varies between \$50 and \$100 a night. Families either stay at no cost or are asked to make a donation up to \$25 per day, depending on the house. However, the donation is waived for those who cannot afford it. The difference is made up through donations. Thanks to your contributions, it is a global RMHC policy that a family never be turned away because of their ability to pay.”

As Ronald McDonald House lodging is available for a donation or no cost, no payment shall be issued by the Department of Public Welfare.

**NOTE:** This policy clarification applies specifically to Ronald McDonald House. It does not apply to any lodging facility which requires payment of a specific fee for its lodging services (for example: PMAFamily House in Pittsburgh). Lodging fees

from facilities such as Family House are reimbursable as a special allowance related to medical transportation.