**Policy Clarification**

**Medicaid – All**

**PMN-19444-372**

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| **Submitted: 5/22/19** | **Agency: CAOs** |
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| **Subject: 2019 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Black Lung Benefits.**  **Question: Will there be a COLA for Black Lung Benefits in 2019?** |

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| **Response By: Division of Health Services** | **Date:** |

Yes. An increase of 1.9 percent is retroactively effective January 1, 2019.

Recipients have begun to receive letters notifying them of the increase and that they will receive a lump sum payment to cover the period from January 1 to the present.

For Medical Assistance (MA), and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) budgets, adjust the new amount once it is reported. The lump sum payment should be treated according to MA handbook Chapter 357 or LTC handbook Chapter 457 based on the budget.

For Long-Term Care (LTC) facility budgets, adjust the cost of care once it is reported. If not reported timely, an overpayment may need to be processed.