



DAVID MAXWELL-JOLLY
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

April 16, 2009

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 09-01

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF BENEFICIARY INFORMATION NOTICE
REGARDING THE HOME UPKEEP ALLOWANCE FOR
INSTITUTIONALIZED INDIVIDUALS

This is to inform counties that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has recently prepared an informational notice that describes the Medi-Cal Home Upkeep Allowance that is available to individuals who reside in nursing homes or other medical care facilities who meet certain requirements. DHCS is providing this information notice to certain advocate groups who can distribute this notice to the target population of individuals. A copy of this notice is attached and has been translated into 12 threshold languages, which are now posted on the DHCS website at www.dhcs.ca.gov (Hot Topics and Latest News). This Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Letter (MEDIL) is for informational purposes only. This MEDIL does not make any policy changes in the Home Upkeep Allowance. As advocate groups distribute the information notice, counties can expect to receive additional inquiries from applicants and beneficiaries about the Home Upkeep Allowance.

For counties' information, the Home Upkeep Allowance (HUA), currently set at \$209 per month, is an amount which qualifying institutionalized individuals may retain of their income for the upkeep and maintenance of their home. In order to qualify for the HUA, the individual must meet several requirements (see Section 50605 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations), including a verified medical determination from the individual's physician that the individual will be able to return home within six months of the date the individual is institutionalized.

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: 09-01
Page 2

If you have questions regarding this MEDIL, please direct them to Mr. Craig Yagi, of my staff, at (916) 552-9522.

Original Signed By Robert Sugawara for Vivian Auble

Vivian Auble, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division

Enclosure

MEDI-CAL HOME UPKEEP ALLOWANCE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TEMPORARILY RESIDING IN A NURSING HOME OR OTHER MEDICAL FACILITY

If you are on Medi-Cal and you are living in or will be living in a nursing home or other medical facility, you may qualify for a Medi-Cal deduction called the Home Upkeep Allowance. The Home Upkeep Allowance would enable you to keep \$209 a month of your income for the maintenance and upkeep of your home while you are temporarily residing in the nursing home or other medical facility. The Home Upkeep Allowance can be allowed for up to a 6 month period from the date you enter the nursing home.

To qualify for the Home Upkeep Allowance:

- You must intend to leave the nursing facility and to return home within 6 months of the date you begin living in the nursing home.
- You must get a written medical statement from your doctor certifying that you will be able to return home within 6 months.
- Your spouse or family are not living in the home.
- Your home is being maintained for your return.

If you want more information about the Home Upkeep Allowance or wish to apply, please call your local county social services office.