

**Medicaid Eligibility Procedure Letter No. 119**

**Effective Date:** October 1, 2016

**OAC Rule:** 5160:1-3-04.3

**To:** All Medicaid Eligibility Manual Holders

**From:** John B. McCarthy, Director

**Subject:** Medicaid: Standard Utility Allowance Increase

**Reason for Change:** The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Family Assistance, with approval from the federal Food and Nutrition Services, is increasing the standard utility allowance (SUA) for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) from \$510 to \$513 effective October 1, 2016. As a result of the SNAP SUA increase, the SUA used in the determination of the minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance (MMMNA) for long-term care budgeting is also being increased. The increase in the SUA may result in a decreased patient liability for affected long-term care individuals.

**Action Required:** A mass change will run after adverse action in August but prior to, or on, the last day of adverse action for September, so that benefits can be impacted as of October 1, 2016. A benefit change notice of action (NOA) will be generated to any individual in an affected program block or their authorized representative. If there are no changes to the program block as a result of the mass change, a NOA will not be generated. A journal entry will be automatically entered when mass change run was successful.

Mass change will not be run on program blocks that have:

- A status of "Denied", "Discontinued", "Ineligible", or "Pending";
- An EDBC Override as the last accepted result;
- One or more individuals with a pending eligibility status;
- Missing date of birth for any active program person;
- Missing relationship status between case persons;
- No assigned worker; or
- Any active program person with a verification status of pending.

If a program block meets any of the above criteria, mass change will not be run and an alert will be generated to the assigned worker. Manual EDBC will need to be processed on these program blocks.

An Ohio Benefits Worker Portal Announcement will be issued with the information contained in this MEPL.

This information is also available on the Ohio Department of Medicaid website and may be accessed at:

**Resources > Publications > ODM Guidance > Medicaid Policy > Behavioral Health Eligibility & CHIP > Medicaid Eligibility Procedure Letter (MEPL)**

<http://medicaid.ohio.gov/RESOURCES/Publications/ODMGuidance.aspx#1535541-medicaid-policy>

### **Training Statement**

For further assistance or clarification regarding the processing of specific cases, please contact ODM Eligibility Technical Assistance at [Medicaid\\_Eligibility\\_TA@Medicaid.Ohio.gov](mailto:Medicaid_Eligibility_TA@Medicaid.Ohio.gov).