



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

PO Box 712

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0712

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

CAROLE JOHNSON  
*Acting Commissioner*

MEGHAN DAVEY  
*Director*

**MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO. 17-17**

**DATE: February 22, 2018**

**TO:** NJ FamilyCare Eligibility Determining Agencies

**SUBJECT:** Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income – 2017 Adjusted Utility Allowance  
**N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.7**

In determining the amount that may be deducted from the income of an institutionalized Medicaid-eligible individual for the maintenance of a community spouse, consideration is given to the excess shelter expenses of the community spouse. When calculating the amount of the shelter expenses, the standard utility allowance is utilized when the community spouse directly incurs utility charges.

As you are aware, these utility allowances are the same as those applicable in determining eligibility under the authority of the Division of Family Development's (DFD) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). DFD has announced that the standard utility allowance will increase from \$501.00 per month to **\$514.00 per month, effective October 1, 2017.**

County Welfare Agencies (CWA) and Institutional Services Section (ISS) offices shall apply the new standards in the post-eligibility treatment of income beginning with the month of October 2017 for all new cases and cases subject to redetermination. All other cases in which there is a community spouse shall be reviewed for the potential of increased maintenance deductions no later than March 31, 2018. For any such case, the CWA must assure that any change in the maintenance deduction be applied retroactively to October 1, 2017.

If you have any questions regarding this Medicaid Communication, please refer them to the Division's Office of Eligibility field service staff member for your agency at 609-588-2556.

MD:hr

c: Carole Johnson, Acting Commissioner  
Department of Human Services

Sarah Adelman, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Human Services

Jonathan Seifried, Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Developmental Disabilities

Harry Pizutelli, Acting Director  
Division of Disability Services

Natasha Johnson, Director  
Division of Family Development

Laura Otterbourg, Director  
Division of Aging Services

Shereef Elnahal, M.D., M.B.A., Acting Commissioner  
Department of Health

Valerie Mielke, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Christine Norbut Beyer, Acting Commissioner  
Department of Children and Families