



TO: Nursing Facility Providers and Hospitals

RE: New HUSKY D Medicaid Procedures for Individuals Needing Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS)

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform nursing facilities and hospitals of important changes to the eligibility requirements for HUSKY D applicants requiring nursing facility care and members currently receiving services under Medicaid HUSKY D in nursing facilities. By statute, HUSKY D is coverage for eligible low-income adults without dependent children who are under age 65 and not receiving Medicare.

Previous to the release of this bulletin, individuals in nursing facilities who did not have enough income to pay for their facility care could qualify for HUSKY D, regardless of their income. This meant that individuals under age 65 and not receiving Medicare with insufficient income to pay privately for nursing facility care and unlimited assets could qualify for HUSKY D payment of their nursing facility care.

After review of all provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) associated with institutionalized individuals who are under age 65 and not receiving Medicare, the Department of Social Services (DSS) is implementing eligibility criteria in accordance with the ACA. Connecticut must adhere to the ACA income limit of 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for HUSKY D. Applicants also receive an income disregard of 5% of the FPL, resulting in an effective income limit of 138% FPL, currently \$1,366.20 per month.

Effective immediately, individuals applying for Medicaid benefits with income greater than 138% FPL no longer qualify for HUSKY D. DSS staff will review applications to determine if applicants' income is above 138% FPL. If an individual's income is above 138% FPL, DSS will review for HUSKY C eligibility.

To qualify for HUSKY C, an individual must be aged, blind or disabled and not have assets exceeding \$1,600. In addition, individuals must not have transferred assets within the last five years to qualify for Medicaid payment of long-term services and supports.

DSS will also review eligibility for all current HUSKY D recipients residing in a nursing facility who have income over 138% FPL for HUSKY C over the next several months. These individuals (or their representatives) will be informed of any necessary documentation needed to establish eligibility for HUSKY C. For individuals in nursing facilities who currently receive HUSKY D, benefits will continue through this review but no later than September 30, 2016, even though they no longer qualify for HUSKY D.

Please contact Eligibility Policy and Program Support at DSS at (860) 424-5250 or if you have any questions. We will work cooperatively with nursing facilities, residents and representatives to implement these changes as carefully and supportively as possible.