

OSS Advisory Newsletter

MEDICAID ESTATE RECOVERY



What is an estate?

An estate is all real and personal property and other assets of the deceased person (beneficiary) as defined in South Carolina Law.

What is estate recovery?

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1993 required that states implement an estate recovery program. This means that the federal government mandated estate recovery for all states. South Carolina's law went into effect July 1, 1994 and requires that the Medicaid program be reimbursed from the beneficiary's estate for medical expenses paid for by Medicaid.

Who is affected by estate recovery and what expenses must be reimbursed?

Two groups of people are affected by estate recovery. They are:

A person of any age who was a patient in a nursing facility, intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, or other medical institution at the time of death, and who was required to pay most of their monthly income for the cost of care; or

A person who was 55 years of age or older when they received medical assistance consisting of nursing facility services, home and community-based services, and hospital and prescription drug services provided to individuals in nursing facilities or receiving home and community-based services.

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CRCF/IPC COST REPORTS

All Residential Care Facilities will be required to complete their July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 RCF/IPC Cost Report electronically. Manual or paper cost reports will no longer be available or accepted. Please look for more details on page 4 of this Newsletter.

August 05, 2011

OSS Advisory Newsletter



NEW PROVIDER SERVICE CENTER

TOLL-FREE 1-888-289-0709

In January 2011, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) implemented a new Provider Service Center (PSC) for specific provider groups. Beginning February 14, 2011, SCDHHS opened the PSC to all South Carolina Medicaid providers. The PSC will offer all provider types the expanded opportunity for assistance with Medicaid questions.

PSC customer service representatives will offer assistance with forms and manual requests, claims inquiries, payment issues and general billing issues. PSC representatives will also assist with Questions regarding the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program and Managed Care Services.

Providers can contact the PSC via the toll-free number :
1-888-289-0709 / 07:30AM to 05:00PM Monday through Friday.

In addition, the PSC will accept calls from all providers requiring assistance with the following:

- * Provider Enrollment
- * Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) support
- * Filing claims via the Web Tool
- * Nursing Home, OSS and Hospice room and board questions.

Your program representative will remain available to assist with complex issues and to clarify program policy.

Per SCDHHS
Medicaid Bulletin
dated July 08, 2011 -

Reimbursement for
SC Medicaid
providers will be
reduced by 7%
effective for dates of
service beginning
on July 11, 2011.

The IPC Daily Rate
has been reduced 7%
effective with dates
of service beginning
July 11, 2011.

The rate has changed
from \$16.00 a day
to \$14.40 a day.
(IPC providers only)

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MEDICAID ESTATE RECOVERY

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How does estate recovery work?

If a person has an estate at death, the Medicaid program recovers any payments it made for medical services from the estate. Medicaid's claim will be similar to claims for funeral expenses, attorney's fees to administer the estate, and taxes. This claim will need to be satisfied in order to properly close the estate. The state isn't interested in taking ownership of any one's real property. Even though your home is not considered as a resource for Medicaid eligibility, it is an asset of your estate. It is the responsibility of the Personal Representative to determine how to repay Medicaid's claim from the assets of the estate.

For example: John Doe was in a nursing facility for the month of July. He died August 3. Medicaid paid \$2,000 for his care in July and August. His estate is worth \$50,000. Medicaid will recover \$2000 from his estate, after claims with higher priority (i.e., mortgage, funeral expenses, probate fees) are paid.

In another example: Jane Doe has been on Medicaid for years. Medicaid has spent \$25,000 on medical services she received since she was age 55. Her estate is worth \$20,000. The Medicaid program will recover from the remainder of the estate, after claim with higher priority are paid.

Are there any exceptions?

Yes. Estate recovery may be waived in certain types of cases that involve an undue hardship. Undue hardship waiver requests may be submitted after the death of the beneficiary and will be given consideration if the conditions outlined in the provisions are met.

Questions concerning Medicaid Estate Recovery should be directed to the program manager at telephone number (803) 898-2932.

August 05, 2011

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How to ELECTRONICALLY Download, Complete and Transmit the 2011 RCF.IPC COST REPORT via Computer



Each facility participating in the OSS and/or IPC Program is required to submit a standardized cost report, developed by DHHS, which reflects all income, operating costs and resident day information of the facility. Facilities operating the entire 12-month period (365 days) from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 must complete this cost report.

A. Download Instructions:

1. Go to web address <http://www.scdhhs.gov/insideDHHS/Bureaus/InformationTechnologyServices.asp>
2. Under Software Downloads, click 2011 RCF-IPC Cost Report
3. Choose SAVE
4. Type a FILE NAME beginning with RC followed by your four license numbers.
Ex. RC4321
5. Click SAVE and the file is now on your computer

B. Completion Instructions:

1. Complete the applicable yellow spaces on the Cost Report tab of the file
2. Once you finish all of the 13 pages, SAVE the file again using the same file name you used in A. 4.

C. Transmitting Instructions:

1. Go to web address <https://secure.dhhs.state.sc.us/seniorscp/upload.html>
2. You are about to view pages over a secure connection. Click OK
3. Information you exchange with this site cannot be viewed... Do you want to proceed? Click YES
4. Click BROWSE
5. Choose the cost report file you saved
6. Click OPEN. The file path and name now appear on the Upload Screen
7. Type the remainder of the information requested
8. Click UPLOAD FILE

The 2011 RCF.IPC Cost Report is **due no later than September 1, 2011**. Failure to electronically submit this information by the deadline will result in the immediate withholding of your facility's payments. No other RCF.IPC Cost Report form will be accepted.

A letter will be mailed by July 11, 2011 to the RCF.IPC facilities required to file a 2011 RCF.IPC Cost Report. If you have not received your letter by July 15, 2011 but feel you are required to submit a 2011 RCF.IPC Cost Report, contact Gwen Henderson at Hendgwen@scdhhs.gov for verification.

NOTE: You will not be exempt from filing the 2011 RCF.IPC Cost Report due to not receiving a letter.

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Thinking about... Fun Facility Activities for August

The month of August is surprisingly filled with some interesting dates to celebrate in your facility. If you're looking for activity ideas that are sure to put smiles on the faces of your residents and staff alike, look no further. Have fun with **food, free gifts, family, friends** and **festivities** for all to enjoy. This month's issue compiles a variety of activity ideas around August dates that are sure to create a happy home for the residents and a fun place for all.

Ice Cream Sandwich Day – The second day of August is (un)commonly known as National Ice Cream Sandwich Day. Although there is no record of the holiday on the congressional books, it provides a great opportunity to enjoy this summer indulgence. Of course, you could go out and buy ice cream sandwiches from the grocery store. But why not make ice cream sandwiches with your residents on this day? It's a simple and fun activity with **food** that has a tasty reward. All you will need are large cookies of your choice (chocolate chip works great), vanilla ice cream, and chopped nuts. Give each resident two cookies and a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Have them put the sandwich together and roll the sides in the chop nuts. Keep in mind any special diets and make dietary substitutions as necessary. You can even be creative with the kinds of ice cream sandwiches you decide to make by having a variety of cookies and ice cream flavors.

(Photo source: <http://fastfood.ocreger.com/tag/ice-cream/>)



National Smile Week – National Smile Week is observed the second week in August. A smile is one of few **free gifts** that boasts wonderful benefits and is contagious in a good way. Many researchers even believe that smiling on a regular basis can improve your health. People who smile more frequently are said to have lower blood pressure, less stress, stonger immune systems, and they often seem to be happier. Smiling can also cause your body to produce hormones that can put you in a better mood. So make an extra effort to spread health and happiness in your facility this week. Encourage your staff and residents to smile more with an activity that is sure to please. Make up some smiley faces and copy them. Then pass them out during National Smile Week to anyone you see that has a smile on his or her face. Make sure to put their names on the back of the smiley faces. At the end of the week, collect the smiley faces and put them in a container to raffle for prizes of your choosing. You can choose a staff winner as well as a resident winner. The prizes don't have to be big, but they should be fun to create more smiles and laughter. Remember that smiling is not only good for your health. Because it's infectious, it's good for the health of those around you as well. Keep smiling!



National Sandwich Month – Did you know that August is National Sandwich Month? (Now it makes sense that there's an Ice Cream Sandwich Day the second day of the month.) Sandwiches are great this time of year because it gives you a break from the heat of cooking. From simple sandwiches like peanut butter and jelly to gourmet varieties, enjoy the month dedicated to this practical and portable delight. Ask residents what their favorite sandwich is. Some may enjoy the similar sandwiches but fixed in a different way. Others may like something a little less traditional. Make an effort to incorporate everyone's choices in a healthy sandwich bar. Remember, a healthy sandwich includes four parts:



Whole grain bread – Select breads that are whole grain because they have more fiber, which is heart-healthy and good for digestion.

Lean protein – Healthy lean proteins include chicken, turkey, ham, lean roast beef, tuna, hummus and low-fat cheese. Cut the sodium in deli varieties by selecting low-sodium or slicing your own meat that you've roasted.

Vegetable – Vegetables not only add nutrients to a sandwich, but they also add flavor. Choose dark fresh greens like spinach or instead of iceberg lettuce for more nutritional value. Other healthy and tasty sandwich toppings include tomatoes, red onion, and peppers.

Condiments – Many spreads can be loaded with fat and calories. Condiments don't have to be high in fat to add flavor, however. Mustard, honey mustard, light dressings, and light cream cheese are more healthy choices that will give the sandwiches that extra zing.

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Hawaii admitted as the 50th State – Celebrate Hawaii joining the United States on August 21st with a luau. Create fun **festivities** in your own facility with a tropical island theme. Plan in advance to incorporate festive food, decorations, music, and activities. Don't forget to include **family** and **friends** in this event. Remind all guests (including residents) to wear their favorite beach attire (a floral shirt or bright colors will do). Don't forget the hats and grass skirts! Consider food choices like grilled chicken, Hawaiian style baked beans, and fresh fruit like pineapple. You can find a variety of wonderful recipes for Hawaiian dishes on the internet. You can even make tropical fruit drinks decorated with little umbrellas. Make sure to decorate with lively

colors and greet guests with leis, the traditional garland of flowers worn around the neck in Hawaii. Encourage guests to dance to some tropical tunes. You can find a variety of slow and up-tempo island music on free internet radio (like Pandora or Jango) by searching popular Hawaiian groups like Hapa and Cazimero. You'll be pleased to find some familiar song titles with an island twist along with traditional Hawaiian music. For added fun, have a Hula dance contest. Staff, residents and family can volunteer for the contest, including wearing a grass skirt. Have residents select the winner and create loads of fun for all to enjoy.

Here's to having some fun activities in August! I hope you find this information helpful because I've really been *Thinking About It*.



Your Happy Healthy Thinker

Thinking About It is brought to you by:
Office for the Study of Aging
Arnold School of Public Health
University of South Carolina

Office for the
Study of Aging