

Policy Clarifications - Medicaid - Long Term Care PMN16045450

Submitted: 01/12/12

Agency: CAOs

Citations:

Subject: Discrepancies between the Social Security Administration (SSA) Award Letter and Data Exchange 3

It was found that the gross SSA income listed on some SSA award letters does not match what is displayed on Data Exchange 3 (BENDEX). Which gross income amount should be used to determine eligibility for payment of Long Term Care (LTC) and to determine the correct cost of care?

Response By: Division of Health Services

Date:01/12/12

Each year that there is a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), SSA sends Social Security recipients an award letter listing the adjusted gross income, Medicare B premium, and the net income. SSA rounds the gross income down so that the net income is in whole dollars and considers this the adjusted gross income. The adjusted gross income is sent from the SSA to the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) and is displayed on IEVS and Data Exchange 3. DPW uses this adjusted gross income to determine eligibility for LTC and the payment towards the cost of care.

It was discovered that for the 2012 COLA some recipients of Social Security recently received award letters with gross income that does not match what is displayed on Data Exchange 3. After some investigation it was determined that at least one local SSA office distributed award letters listing the gross income before rounding down. In these cases, the gross income listed on the award letter differs from what is displayed on Data Exchange 3 by less than one dollar.

If the gross income listed on the award letter differs from the amount displayed on Data Exchange 3 by less than one dollar, then use the gross amount displayed on the Title II tab of Data Exchange 3.

If the gross income listed on the award letter differs by more than one dollar then the County Assistance Office should contact their local SSA to verify the adjusted gross Social Security income.