

Help with Other Medical Expenses for Nursing Facility Residents with Medicaid

The Advocacy Center (AC) is a statewide non-profit agency providing free legal services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

Nursing facility residents with Medicaid are usually required to apply all but \$30 or \$38 of their monthly income to help pay for their nursing home care. Yet the nursing home does not cover some of their medical needs—like some kinds of dental care, dentures, glasses, or hearing aids.

But arrangements can be made with the Medicaid agency to reduce the amount you pay the nursing facility, so you can pay these medical expenses. This is called the “incurred medical expense option.”

Medicaid will temporarily increase the amount it pays your facility, and reduce the amount you pay the facility, to allow you to make the medical purchase you need.

People may need assistance from the Advocacy Center in order to make the arrangements until procedures become routine.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. You must be a nursing home resident.
2. Medicaid must be paying some of the cost of your nursing home care.
3. You, too, must have income that is being used to help pay the nursing facility. ***(The option is not usually available to persons whose only income is SSI, because the SSI is reduced to \$30 a month when you are in a nursing facility.)***
4. You must have a medical need that the nursing facility is not required to take care of. (You should already be getting medical care and items that the nursing home is required to pay for.)
5. When you “incur” (obligating yourself to pay for) that cost and give proper notice to Medicaid, the agency will reduce the amount you have to pay the nursing facility in one or more months, so you can pay for the medical expense.

FOR HELP WITH THE “INCURRED MEDICAL EXPENSE OPTION”:

Contact the Advocacy Center, at 1-800-960-7705 (voice or TDD), and ask for assistance to get Medicaid’s “incurred medical expense option.”

ADDITIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER RESOURCES:

The Advocacy Center also publishes a quarterly newsletter, *TriAngle*, which discusses legal issues affecting senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and outlines Advocacy Center activities. *TriAngle* is free to clients and friends of the Advocacy Center. Please contact the Advocacy Center if you would like to be added to the *TriAngle* mailing list.

If you need more information about our services, contact the Advocacy Center.

For Assistance:

Call: TOLL-FREE 1-800-960-7705 (Voice) 866-935-7348 (TTY)

Write: 1010 Common St. Suite 2600, New Orleans, LA 70112

Visit our website: www.advocacyla.org

AC has offices in: New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Shreveport

To request services in Vietnamese, call 1-800-960-7705, extension 153.

Để đòi hỏi những công tác (dịch vụ) bằng tiếng Việt, xin gọi 1-800-960-7705, mở rộng 153.

For information in Spanish please call 1-800-960-7705, ext. 152.

Para información en español por favor llame 1-800-960-7705, ext. 152.