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 | INFORMATIONAL LETTER |
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TRANSMITTAL: 95 INF-6

TO: Commissioners of
 Social Services

DIVISION: Office of
 Housing and
 Adult Services

DATE: March 15, 1995

SUBJECT: Family Type Homes for Adults: Continuing Benefits
 for Hospitalized Residents of a Family Type Home
 for Adults

SUGGESTED
 DISTRIBUTION: Director of Services
 Adult Services Staff
 Family Type Home Coordinators
 Staff Development Coordinators

CONTACT PERSON: Any questions concerning this release should be
 directed to Thomas Burton at (518) 432-2987

ATTACHMENTS: Model Letter

FILING REFERENCES

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
86 INF-18		352.8(d) 458 489	Article 7 of SSL		

The purpose of this release is to inform local social services districts of the current policies for continuing benefits when residents of a Family Type Home for Adults are hospitalized.

In 86 INF-18, question #22 addressed possible payments that the operator of a Family Type Home for Adults could receive when a resident was hospitalized. Our response to that question included comments regarding the bed reservation policy as stated in Section IV.D of the Model Admission Agreement and the policies regarding continued benefits for hospitalized residents who are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Home Relief (HR). The bed reservation policy as stated in the Model Admission Agreement has not changed. However, the policies regarding continued benefits for hospitalized SSI or HR recipients have changed. These policies are presented below.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) allows certain residents of public, medical and psychiatric institutions or public or private medical facilities where more than 50 percent of the cost of their care is being paid by Medicaid to be eligible for continued full SSI benefits for up to three months if:

1. the months involved are the first three full calendar months of a continuous period of medical confinement; and
2. SSA receives a physician's certification that the individual is likely to leave the institution no later than the 91st consecutive day after admission; and
3. SSA receives evidence that the individual needs to maintain and provide for the expenses of the home or living arrangement to which he or she may return; and
4. the items in #2 and #3 above are submitted to SSA by the 90th day of confinement or the day of release, whichever is earlier. Submitted means received by SSA or postmarked no later than the 90th day after admission.

Although the primary responsibility for notifying SSA in these situations resides with the health care professionals in the facility or institution to which the SSI recipient has been admitted, the SSA will accept reports from any interested party, including Family Type Home operators, SSI recipients and their family members.

The policy regarding hospitalized HR recipients is more restrictive. If an HR recipient is expected to be in a medical facility for a period not to exceed 30 days and continued benefits are necessary to retain his/her place in the Family Type Home for Adults, the local social services district must authorize an allowance to retain such care. Such allowance must not exceed 30 days.

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Local social services districts are encouraged to share this information with their Family Type Home for Adults operators and with residents who are receiving SSI or HR benefits so they will be aware of these policies and their implications. Operators and eligible residents should consider updating the bed reservation period in Section IV.D of the Model Admission Agreement to comply with the current SSA and HR policies on benefit continuation. Attached is a copy of a model letter which can be sent to your Family Type Home for Adults operators and their SSI and HR residents to advise them of the current policies on benefit continuation.

Peter R. Brest
Associate Commissioner

MODEL LETTER

Dear _____:

I am writing to assure that operators of a Family Type Home for Adults and residents of Family Type Homes for Adults who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Home Relief (HR) are aware of the current policies for continuing benefits when SSI or HR recipients are temporarily hospitalized.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) allows certain residents of public, medical and psychiatric institutions or public or private medical facilities where more than 50% of the cost of their care is being paid by Medicaid to be eligible for continued full SSI benefits for up to three months if:

1. the months involved are the first three full calendar months of a continuous period of medical confinement; and
2. SSA receives a physician's certification that the individual is likely to leave the institution no later than the 91st consecutive day after admission; and
3. SSA receives evidence that the individual needs to maintain and provide for the expenses of the home or living arrangement to which he or she may return; and
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The policy regarding hospitalized HR recipients is more restrictive. If a HR recipient is expected to be in a medical facility for a period not to exceed 30 days and continued benefits are necessary to retain his/her place in the Family Type Home for Adults, the local social services district must authorize an allowance to retain such care. Such allowance must not exceed 30 days.

Operators and eligible residents should consider updating the bed reservation period in Section IV.D of the Model Admission Agreement to comply with the current SSA and HR policies on benefit continuation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at _____.

Sincerely,

Family Type Home Coordinator