Residents, Medicaid, and Stimulus Checks: What You Need to Know

Under recent COVID-19 legislation, most nursing facility residents are receiving stimulus payments of up to $1,200. The Internal Revenue Service will issue these payments in the same way that you receive your Social Security benefit (direct deposit or a paper check by mail).

This money belongs to you, not the nursing facility! This is true even if Medicaid pays for your care and services at the facility. Under Medicaid rules, a stimulus payment is not counted as income. Therefore, receiving a stimulus payment does not change a resident’s monthly payment (often called a “same monthly amount to the patient pay amount” or “share of cost”). The resident pays the nursing facility and keeps the stimulus payment for their own use.

In addition, the stimulus payment does not count as a Medicaid resource for 12 months. In other words, for the first year, the payment cannot cause you to have “too much” savings. A resident can spend the stimulus money as they wish, including gifts and charitable contributions. This is the resident’s money to spend on their wants and needs.

When Will the Check Arrive? The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) began sending stimulus payments on April 17, 2020. Checks are sent the same way checks are currently sent for persons receiving Social Security. All recipients of Social Security benefits, including retirement, survivors, disability (SSDI), and supplemental security income (SSI); Veterans Administration benefits; or Railroad Retirement benefits will receive payment automatically, without any action on their part. If someone is currently receiving benefits through direct deposit, the stimulus payment will arrive through direct deposit as well.

Do I Need to File a Tax Return to Receive a Check? Most residents will not need to do anything. Action is only required if the resident does NOT receive Social Security (including retirement, survivors, disability, and SSI), Veterans Administration, or Railroad Retirement benefits AND did not file a tax return in both 2018 and 2019.

Who Else Can I Contact? Residents, their family, or facility staff can contact the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program at 1-800-262-6612 if they are concerned about their right to spend their own stimulus money.

Source: National Center on Law & Elder Rights
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“So it’s home again, and home again, America for me! / My heart is turning home again and there I long to be, / In the land of youth and freedom, beyond the ocean bars, / Where the air is full of sunlight and the flag is full of stars.” — Henry Van Dyke, “America For Me”
HOME
This is my Home.
We live here each and every day.
We have the right to voice, within reason,
What we do or say,

Each month the Resident Council meets,
Where we can state our views.
They try to solve any problems we have,
And give us the latest news.

The nurses and caregivers,
Try to make comfortable for us,
They try to be helpful,
Even though we may fuss.

Nourishment is provided,
With two choices of food.
The dining room is decorated attractively,
To put us in the mood.

Activities always have
Something for us to do.
They try to keep us busy
The whole day through.

The folks in Social Services have
A listening ear.
They listen to our cares and concerns.
The ones we hold most dear.

This is our home.
Where we live each and every day,
The staff here hopes we have
A very pleasant day.

Author: Patty
PA Nursing Home Resident
From CV-40 Words of Wisdom

Deciding to take up jogging, old Joe was astounded by the wide selection of jogging shoes available at the local sports shoe store. While trying on a basic pair of jogging shoe, he noticed a minor feature and asked the clerk: "What is this little pocket thingy here on the side for?" And the clerk: "Oh, that's to carry spare change so you can call your wife to come pick you up when you've jogged too far."

source: http://www.jokes4us.com/sportsjokes/runningjokes.html

GEORGIA ON MY MIND

ACROSS
2. What is Georgia's State Food?
4. What is the Capital of Georgia?

DOWN
1. The State Bird of Georgia is the ___ thrasher
3. What is the name of the mascot for the Bulldogs?

Giggles...