



# Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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## Informational Letter

### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	15-INF-03
<b>To:</b>	Local District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office</b> :	Center for Employment and Economic Supports
<b>Date:</b>	February 17, 2015
<b>Subject:</b>	Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) in Non-Medical and Medical Facilities
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Temporary Assistance Directors SNAP Directors Medical Assistance Directors Staff Development Coordinators Employment Coordinators
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	Temporary Assistance: 1-800-343-8859, Temporary Assistance Bureau, extension 4-9344
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">Attachment 1: Personal Needs Allowance in Non-Medical Facilities Chart</a> <a href="#">Attachment 2: Personal Needs Allowance in Medical Facilities Chart</a> <a href="#">Attachment 3: Personal Needs Allowance in Non-Medical Facility Descriptions</a> <a href="#">Attachment 4: Certifying State Agency and Funding Source Definitions</a>
<b>Attachment Available On – Line:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
06 INF-08 06 ADM-03 06 INF-33 09 INF-14 12 INF-04 14 INF 07		Section 352.8 (c)(1) Section 900.17(a)	SSL 131-o(Subd. 1) SSL 159(10)		Abel Transmittal 14-4

## **Section 2**

### **I. Purpose**

This Informational Letter (INF) provides Social Services Districts (SSDs) with updated charts that represent the monthly Personal Needs Allowances (PNAs) for Residents of Non-Medical Facilities Attachment 1, and the PNAs in Medical Facilities Attachment 2. For informational purposes, this release includes two additional attachments, Personal Needs Allowances in Non-Medical Facilities - Facility Descriptions, Attachment 3, and Certifying State Agency and Funding Source Definitions, Attachment 4.

### **II. Background**

When recipients of Temporary Assistance<sup>1</sup> (TA) reside in non-medical facilities or medical facilities, SSDs must provide a monthly PNA for clothing and incidentals. The type of facility the individual resides in determines the amount of the PNA.

Individuals who reside in Congregate Care Level 1, 2 or 3 facilities receive a PNA based on the type of facility. The PNA amounts normally increase every year when the Social Security Administration (SSA) adjusts federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits to reflect the increase in the cost of living.

### **III. Program Implications**

#### **Temporary Assistance Implications**

Increased PNA amounts result in a higher TA standard of need and higher PNAs for TA recipients residing in Congregate Care Level 1, 2 or 3 facilities. Use of the correct shelter type will generate the correct PNA. There is no need to re-budget these cases because the increased PNA amounts were updated automatically with the annual Automated Budgeting and Eligibility Logic (ABEL) mass re-budget completed in January 2015. ABEL Transmittal 14-4, "General Introduction to WMS Support for the January 1, 2015 Mass Changes," describes the Upstate mass re-budget. NYC HRA Policy Directive #14-30-ELI describes the New York City (Downstate) mass re-budget.

Attached for informational purposes are the PNA charts: Personal Needs Allowances (PNA) in Non-Medical Facilities (Attachment 1), Personal Needs Allowances (PNA) in Medical Facilities (Attachment 2), Personal Needs Allowance in Non-Medical Facility Descriptions (Attachment 3), and Certifying State Agency and Funding Source Definitions (Attachment 4).

The above attachments can also be found in CentraPort under Desk Guides.

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<sup>1</sup> Whenever 'Temporary Assistance' or 'TA' is used in this document, it means 'Family Assistance' and 'Safety Net Assistance.' Statutorily, these programs are referred to as 'Public Assistance.'

## **Medicaid Implications**

For Medicaid purposes, the PNA amount is a deduction from the income for an individual who is in permanent absence status in a medical facility. **PNA's for Medicaid-only recipients in permanent absence status in medical facilities have not increased.**

Please note that for an "institutionalized spouse," who is residing in the community and participates in certain Home and Community Based waivers or who is enrolled in a managed long term care plan, the PNA deduction from his/her income is equal to the difference between the Medicaid income level for one-person and two-person households. **Effective January 1, 2015 the PNA is \$384.**

For an SSI related individual who resides in a Congregate Care Level 1, 2 or 3 facility, the PNA is part of the standard of need/SSI benefit level that is used to determine Medicaid eligibility. The TA standard of need/SSI benefit level for recipients residing in Congregate Care Level 1, 2 or 3 facilities will be automatically updated in the Medicaid mass re-budget.

### **Issued By**

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