

## **SSI ENHANCED BENEFIT FOR ASSISTED LIVING**

### ***Health-Care Facility Referrals***

- Facility based health and behavioral health care providers such as hospitals, psychiatric or substance abuse treatment facilities, nursing homes, health or behavioral health centers, and the Adult Correctional Institute (ACI), complete an Assessment for the Enhanced SSI Assisted Living Program to determine whether the referral is appropriate based on an individual's functional needs and behavioral health issues. The SSI Enhanced Program contributes toward the cost of room and board at Assisted Living Facilities by allowing for an enhanced SSI payment.
- The attending physician, psychiatrist, or nurse practitioner, then completes or directs professional staff involved in the assessment process to complete the assessment packet entitled, "Assessment-Enhanced SSI Assisted Living Program". The attending physician, psychiatrist, or nurse practitioner must review and sign the required forms upon completion of the Assessment, verifying that the individual requires assistance in Activities of Daily Living or Incidental Activities of Daily Living and if medication management is required, and the individual does not exhibit behaviors that pose a risk to him/her(self) and/or to others. (See attachment II in the Assessment Packet).
- These assessments must be reviewed and signed by the attending physician, psychiatrist, or nurse practitioner once they verify the individual requires assistance as described in the previous bullet, and does not exhibit behaviors that pose a risk to him/herself and/or others. (See attachment II of the Assessment Packet)
- The assessment must indicate a "yes" or "N/A" in every category under sections III, IV, and V and must have a yes response for sections VI, and VII as verified by a physician, psychiatrist, or nurse practitioner for all referrals from a hospital, psychiatric or substance abuse treatment facility, nursing home, health or mental health center, or Department of Corrections.
- It is imperative that the names and titles of all persons completing the forms are legible. Please print as well as sign wherever applicable.

### ***Community Based Self-Referrals and Assisted Living Referrals***

- This category includes those individuals referred by a family member or friend, an assisted living facility, or the applicant. It also includes referrals from one assisted living facility to another.
- A referral is made to "The Point" at 401-462-4444 for a brief screening of behavioral health.

- Referrals are triaged for assessment to the R.I. Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals or to the Department of Elderly Affairs' regional case management network regardless of age.
- Referrals will be given to the Case Management agency, which covers the town or city where the applicant lives at the time of referral.
- *Assisted living facilities should not complete the assessment and referral for SSI Enhanced Assisted Living applicants. The assessment must be completed by either a case management agency, physician, psychiatrist, or nurse practitioner.*

### ***Waiver Referrals***

- If referrals are received at "The Point" and it is determined that the applicant is 65 years of age or older and may have a nursing home level of care, a referral is made to the Department of Elderly Affairs for screening and assessment for the assisted living waivers.
- Individuals requiring the SSI Enhanced benefit but do not have a behavioral health issue/diagnosis, will have the SSI and the waiver assessment packet completed by the DEA case management network.
- Individuals requiring the SSI Enhanced benefit, waiver program and also have a behavioral health issue/diagnosis will have the required paperwork completed in consultation with the attending or treating physician, psychiatrist or out patient treatment provider. If no attending physician or treatment provider exists, the Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals will provide guidance in the assessment process.

### ***All Categories***

- Once it has been determined that an individual requires the services of an assisted living facility, is not being referred to a waiver program, and does not exhibit behaviors that pose a health and/or safety risk to self or others, the referral source is responsible for locating an appropriate assisted living placement.
- Only individuals who are recommended for placement will be referred to the Category D process.
- Monthly income cannot exceed the current SSI standard (2009) of \$1212.00
- Assets cannot exceed \$2000
- Whole life insurance cannot exceed \$1500

- While the process developed by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services helps referral sources to identify appropriate candidates, facility administrators are responsible for further assessment of individuals applying for admission. The facility administrator, in consultation with appropriate staff, must determine if a resident's health care, functional, and behavioral needs, can be safely met by their facility. Rhode Island Department of Health licensing regulations require admission and discharge policies that provide for the health and safety of all facility residents. (See Rules and Regulations for Licensing Assisted Living Facilities: R23-17.4-ALR)

### ***Category D Verification Form***

- This form is a Social Security Administration (SSA) required form.
- This form may be initiated by the referral source at the time of the assessment and is completed in part by the assisted living administrator.
- Persons not receiving SSI in the community must file an SSI application and must contact SSA to express "an intent to apply". (See the attached list of SSA offices)
- This form identifies contact information for persons assisting with the SSI application, such as family member, legal guardian, case manager, or assisted living administrator.
- Note: The Social Security Administration (SSA) determines eligibility for SSI, the payment amount, and the effective date of payment.
- Once received by SSA, this form:
  - ❖ Protects an individual's SSI application date.
  - ❖ Allows for an eligibility determination based on the Enhanced SSI standard for individuals newly applying for SSI. (\$1212. in 2008)
  - ❖ Allows for payment increases to currently active SSI recipients for the cost of assisted living room and board up to the SSI Enhanced limit.
  - ❖ If the individual being referred is not a current SSI recipient, arrangements must be made for the completion of the SSI application including the submission of required SSA documentation.
- Once the facility admission date has been confirmed, the SSI Assisted Living Arrangement-Category D Verification form is faxed (401-462-3496) to the DHS designated representative at the Center for Adult Health.
- The Category D form is matched with the assessment/recommendation forms on file and all forms are checked for completeness and appropriateness.

- Category D forms are then signed and faxed to the Social Security Administration Office handling applications for that facility by DHS staff.
- Assisted Living Facilities are advised to obtain a copy of the Assisted Living Recommendation, as well as the Category D form for the resident's record
- A written denial notice and DHS fair hearing form will be sent to individuals who are not recommended for referral to Assisted Living.
- When a person is screened: "Not to be Referred", the referring agency, DEA Case Manager or MHRH assessor will forward a signed assessment and "Assisted Living Recommendations" form to the DHS Center for Adult Health. The DHS will send a denial letter to the client with a DHS 121-a that can be returned to request an appeal.
- Note: Policy and assessment forms for the SSI Enhanced Assisted Living Program can be found on the DHS website at [www.dhs.ri.gov](http://www.dhs.ri.gov)