

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME KING, MEMBER FINANCE



## **What is Medicaid?**

A combined state and federally funded health benefits program that provides long term care/nursing home coverage for income and asset eligible persons.

## **What is the asset eligible limit for Medicaid?**

The asset limit for Medicaid eligibility is \$2000 assets at the end of each month eligibility is needed. Exemptions from the \$2000 asset calculation include irrevocable prepaid funeral/burial expenses, life insurance with a total face value of \$1500 or less and one vehicle. Medicaid Spousal Impoverishment has different asset limits and is explained in the DHS Publication P-10063. Note: The Medicaid program allows the ownership of one vehicle.

## **What do I do when I receive a Wisconsin Veteran's Home bill?**

If privately paying and not pursuing Medicaid eligibility, pay the bill. If there is a VA Service Connected Disability rating which qualifies for care paid by the VA, there will not typically be a bill. If a veteran believes he/she qualifies for free care, please provide Member Finance representative with the VA disability paperwork. If working with a Member Finance employee on applying for Medicaid back to date of admission, we ask that you pay the projected monthly patient liability.

## **What is the Patient Liability?**

Patient Liability is the amount of income owed to the nursing home by Medicaid recipients for cost of care each month. The patient liability is calculated by adding income sources (net Social Security, gross retirements, pensions, annuities) and then deducting personal needs allowance of \$45.00 + \$90.00 if there is a VA pension and other allowed deductions (health insurance premiums, guardian ad litem fees, medical expenses from prior to Medicaid eligibility).

## **Do I get an allowance from my income?**

When income is direct deposited to the Community First Credit Union, a \$45.00 allowance will transfer to the member's accessible savings account. In addition, \$90.00 will transfer from a VA pension if direct deposited to the Community First Credit Union. If income is maintained in an account other than Community First Credit Union, any patient liability is owed to the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, but the allowance can be maintained in the other account. Total assets are to remain below \$2000.

## **Can I continue to bank at my current financial institution?**

Yes. If on Medicaid or plan to go on Medicaid, be sure to provide monthly statements to the Member Finance employee to help track your total assets to stay within Medicaid asset limits. Report to the Member Finance employee if you close an account with a paper statement or letter that the account is closed.

## **Do I need to retain my health insurance?**

Consider the following: Once a policy is cancelled, it may be difficult to obtain coverage with another or the same insurance company. If the member ever returns to the community, it will be difficult to obtain insurance coverage. Second medical opinions are not paid for by the Medicaid program. The premium is an allowed deduction under Medicaid regulations, so it is allowed to be paid from the recipient's income and not assets; thus, no out of pocket expense to the member. Members are responsible for co-pays or deductibles not covered by a health insurance plan, Medicare or Medicaid. Once on Medicaid, that additional coverage often leads to a re-examination of other health coverage.

## **When is the Level of Care determined?**

This question is asked more often by those who will be paying for cost of care privately and those who have long term care coverage. It is assessed by the licensed medical care staff and confirmed by the physician after admission.

## **Are my prescriptions included in my cost of care?**

If your cost of care is paid by the VA for your service-connected disability, your prescriptions are covered. As long as you are on a Medicare stay, your prescriptions are also covered. If you pay privately or Medicaid helps pay for your care, you may be responsible for the cost of your prescription drugs. If you have a prescription drug plan, we can try to bill, but you may need to change insurance plans. We will assist you with making that change once you admit.