



Department of Medical Assistance Services
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Richmond, Virginia 23219
www.dmas.virginia.gov

Patient Pay - Nursing Facility Placement -

The following information is provided as a general overview for Medicaid-eligible nursing facility residents. Additional information may be obtained from the local Department of Social Services (DSS).

What is patient pay?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursing facility (NF) residents are usually required to contribute part of their income toward the cost of their NF care. The “patient pay” is the amount that the resident must contribute.• All Medicaid-eligible NF residents must have their patient pay calculated; however, some residents’ patient pay could be \$0.• The patient pay must be paid to the NF at the beginning of each month.• Residents will not lose their Medicaid if they do not make this payment; however, the NF may discharge or transfer the resident for failure to pay the required patient pay amount.
How is the patient pay amount determined?	<p>Patient pay is the individual’s gross income minus the allowable deductions. To calculate the patient pay, the local DSS will deduct the following allowances, as appropriate, from the individuals income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic Allowance of \$40• Guardian fee – not to exceed 5% of total gross income• Special Earnings Allowance – the first \$75, plus ½ of the remaining gross earnings, up to a maximum of \$190 per month• Spousal allowance, if applicable• Dependent family member allowance, if applicable• Non-covered medical expenses including health insurance premiums• Home maintenance allowance if the NF facility stay is temporary
DSS is responsible for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calculating the patient pay amount• Validating the resident’s annual renewal for continued eligibility and re-evaluating patient pay amounts within 30 days of a reported change in income
DMAS is responsible for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paying the NF an amount that equals the Medicaid payment rate less the patient pay amount.
DMAS and DSS do not have the authority to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enforce payment of the patient pay.• Take any action against the resident or their authorized representative for failing to pay a patient pay.• Collect payment of the patient pay

If an individual does not pay the patient pay amount, the following actions may be taken:

If the Nursing Facility wishes to pursue collection of the patient pay amount, the Nursing Facility is responsible for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing, in writing, an explanation of the balance due• Following standard collection procedures which will consist of no fewer than three written statements.• Reporting to the Medicaid eligibility worker, the NF resident’s negligence in paying the patient pay amount.
If the above attempts to collect the patient pay are unsuccessful, the Nursing Facility may elect to take one of the following actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discharge or transfer the resident, including transferring him within the NF, except as prohibited by the <i>Virginia State Plan for Medical Assistance Services</i>. If this action is taken, the resident or his authorized representative must be given at least 30 days written notice prior to the discharge or transfer, which shall contain appeal rights. If these parties do not agree with this action, they may submit an appeal request to DMAS. The appeals process is outlined at http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/app-home.htm.• Allow the resident to continue to reside in the NF and not collect the patient pay.