



TO: All Providers
RE: New Medicaid (HUSKY) Spend-down Procedures

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers of changes in how the Department of Social Services processes Medicaid (HUSKY) "spend-down" cases. Spend-down cases are cases where individuals do not immediately qualify because their incomes exceed the HUSKY income limits, but could qualify for HUSKY through the spend-down process.

The spend-down process compares the individual's income to the HUSKY income limit over a 6-month budget period. The amount of the individual's income that is over the HUSKY income limit during the 6-month spend-down period is the individual's "spend-down amount." The spend-down amount is similar to an insurance deductible: HUSKY will not pay medical expenses up to the spend-down amount, but may pay for any medical expenses subsequently incurred through the end of the spend-down budget period.

Example: Mr. Smith applies for HUSKY in January. His income is over the HUSKY income limit by \$100 a month. His spend-down budget period is the 6-month period from January through June.

For the 6-month spend-down budget period, Mr. Smith's income is over the HUSKY income limit by \$600 (\$100 a month x 6 months). This \$600 is Mr. Smith's spend-down amount. Similar to an insurance deductible, HUSKY will not pay the first \$600 of medical expenses, up to the spend-down amount.

On Feb. 15, Mr. Smith goes to the emergency room and incurs a \$600 expense. HUSKY will not cover the \$600 expense, but because Mr. Smith has met his spend-down "deductible," he now qualifies for HUSKY. HUSKY will pay for any medical expenses Mr. Smith incurs from this date through the end of his budget period (June).

Until now, DSS staff in the twelve DSS Regional Offices have collected and reviewed medical expenses for spend-down cases. To improve the efficiency of the spend-down process, DSS has created a new HUSKY Spend-down Processing Center. The HUSKY Spend-down Processing Center will perform the administrative tasks of collecting and reviewing medical expenses for HUSKY clients who need to qualify through the spend-down process.

HUSKY spend-down clients will now submit medical expenses by mail or by fax to the HUSKY Spend-down Processing Center, instead of to the DSS Regional Offices. Providers who are funding out-stationed eligibility staff may continue to route medical expenses to these workers for processing. DSS Regional Office staff will continue to review expenses when individuals first apply for HUSKY and at redeterminations. They also retain responsibility for all eligibility decisions.

Staff at the HUSKY Spend-down Processing Center will review and process expenses. They are also available to answer any questions from clients about their HUSKY spend-downs Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5pm.

Unless specifically requested otherwise by a DSS Regional Office worker, providers and agencies should now send medical expenses submitted on behalf of spend-down clients to:

HUSKY Spend-down Processing Center
PO Box 280747
East Hartford, CT 06128-0747

Telephone: 1-877-858-7012
Fax: 1-888-495-2897

