

# CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL NO. 05-14, CHANGES RELATED TO 2015 COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)

**DATE: MARCH 2, 2015**

**Manual:** Family and Children's Medicaid  
**Change No:** 05-14  
**To:** County Directors of Social Services  
**Effective:** January 1, 2015

## **I. BACKGROUND**

- A. The 2015 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is 1.7 percent for Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. Social Security benefits increased by 1.7 percent effective December 2014. These benefits are payable in January 2015.
- B. The Veteran Affairs (VA) cost-of-living adjustment is the same percentage as the Social Security benefits. Veterans will receive their increase in the January 2015 payment.

## **II. CONTENT OF CHANGE**

MA-3315, Medicaid Deductible, is updated with the new Medicare premiums, deductibles and coinsurance amounts.

MA-3322, Community Spouse Resource Protection, spousal resource allowance and examples are updated to reflect current amounts.

## **III. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION**

This change is effective 01/01/2015.

## **IV. MAINTENANCE OF MANUAL**

**Remove:** MA-3315, Medicaid Deductible, pages 7-12 &17-20.  
**Insert:** [MA-3315](#), Medicaid Deductible, pages 7-12 &17-20.

**Remove:** MA-3322, Community Spouse Resource Protection, pages 3 – 5.  
**Insert:** [MA-3322](#), Community Spouse Resource Protection, pages 3 – 5.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Operational Support Team (OST) at [ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov).

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Director, Division of Medical Assistance

(This material was researched and written by Arena Everett, Policy Consultant, Medicaid Eligibility Unit)