
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: SMITH
SUBJECT: NURSING HOME NEED STANDARD- SIGNATURE
DATE: 11//25/02

Staff at the Division of Medicaid has requested your signature/approval to increase the need standard used in determining eligibility for nursing home care. This is the standard annual revision requiring your approval and signature. If the increase is not approved, some current residents (20) may be rendered ineligible.

Each state can set its own nursing facility income limit at a minimum of the SSI limit or a maximum of 300% of this limit. Each year when the federal government determines the cost of living increase for social security benefits, the SSI limit and our nursing facility limit are subject to change. This year the cost of living increase is 1.4%. The SSI limit is increasing from \$545 to \$552 per month, which will allow our NF limit to increase from \$1635 to \$1656 (300% of \$552).

While this may be something that needs to be addressed in cost containment measures down the road, I would recommend addressing the PLAD's first. Since this only deals with around 20 people, it would get far more bad press than any revenue savings could justify.