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NHCA/NALA has received further interpretation from DHHS on the Medicaid Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) issue as it relates to people 65 years and older.

DHHS relayed that payment for people 65 years and older is not an issue, whether a facility is an IMD or not.

People aged 65 and older will count in the overall numbers (as it relates to the 50 percent with mental health diagnosis or anti-psychotics) to determine if a facility is an IMD.

Just as always has been required, if a person that is 65 or over and is a level 2 PASSAR, facilities must provide the “specialized mental health services.” This is NOT a change.

For those people that are between 21 and 65 years old and living in an IMD, Medicaid payment is not permissible. The Department is actively working on a possible solution for this group and I hope to know more soon.

Last week’s webcast can be viewed at <http://nehca.org/IMDMay262011webcast.htm>

The Department will soon have Q&A Web page available. NHCA/NALA will provide that Web address when it becomes available.