

## INFORMATION SHEET: EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

The Extraordinary Circumstances (EC) program is designed to provide payment to nursing facilities until an appropriate placement can be found for certain members who are no longer medically eligible for nursing facility level of care. Extraordinary Circumstances is available ONLY to NF MaineCare members whose nursing facility bill has been paid for at least 120 consecutive days. Payment for days under appeal cannot be included in the 120 days. It also does not include days reimbursed under Awaiting Placement for Residential Care (APRC). If a member chooses to appeal a denial of medical eligibility for nursing facility care, the application for Extraordinary Circumstances will not be processed until the Commissioner has rendered the final decision. Office of Elder Services will not process the application until the allowable time period for appeals has passed.

### **Summary of EC requirements (Section 67.02-6, Chapter II of the MaineCare Benefits Manual):**

- Nursing facility bill must have been paid by MaineCare for at least 120 consecutive days, excluding appeal days or days under APRC, AND the facility must provide documentation that the discharge from the nursing facility would pose serious risk to the individual's health, welfare, or safety.
- Resident must be denied medical eligibility for nursing facility care. Fax the two-page Outcome of the assessment by the Department's Assessing Services Agency (Goold Health Systems). Do not fax the entire MED assessment form.
- Resident must be financially eligible, as determined by Office of Integrated Access and Support.
- Nursing facility must document evidence of discharge planning on the application form.
- Resident must agree to accept an appropriate placement within a 60-mile radius. The resident may agree to accept placement further than a 60-mile radius, but is not required.
- If the resident appeals the outcome of the eligibility assessment, the EC application will not be processed until there is a final decision in the appeal process.
- Please notify Office of Elder Services of any transfer or significant change in condition during the approved eligibility period.
- The Request for Extension form is due at least 5 (five) days prior to the end of the currently approved eligibility period.

**IMPORTANT: If an appropriate placement, within a 60-mile radius, is found and the resident refuses to accept the placement, Extraordinary Circumstances payment will end.**

**If the resident is admitted to a hospital, the EC eligibility period ends on the date of admission. A member must have a medical eligibility determination assessment prior to returning to the facility.**

**Please call Office of Elder Services, at 287-9200 or at 1-800-262-2232 with any questions.**