

256D.03 RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE GENERAL ASSISTANCE.

Subdivision 1. **County administration.** Every county agency shall provide general assistance to persons residing within its jurisdiction who meet the need requirements of sections 256D.01 to 256D.21. General assistance shall be administered by the county agencies according to law and rules promulgated by the commissioner pursuant to sections 14.001 to 14.69.

Subd. 2. **Assistance standards.** State aid shall be paid for all general assistance and grants up to the standards of section 256D.01, subdivision 1a, and according to procedures established by the commissioner, except as provided for under section 256.017.

Subd. 2a. **County agency options.** Any county agency may, from its own resources, make payments of general assistance: (a) at a standard higher than that established by the commissioner without reference to the standards of section 256D.01, subdivision 1; or (b) to persons not meeting the eligibility standards set forth in section 256D.05, subdivision 1, but for whom the aid would further the purposes established in the general assistance program according to rules adopted by the commissioner according to the Administrative Procedure Act. The Minnesota Department of Human Services may maintain client records and issue these payments, providing the cost of benefits is paid by the counties to the Department of Human Services according to section 256.01.

Subd. 3. **General assistance medical care; eligibility.** (a) General assistance medical care may be paid for any person who is not eligible for medical assistance under chapter 256B, including eligibility for medical assistance based on a spenddown of excess income according to section 256B.056, subdivision 5, or MinnesotaCare for applicants and recipients defined in paragraph (c), except as provided in paragraph (d), and:

(1) who is receiving assistance under section 256D.05, except for families with children who are eligible under Minnesota family investment program (MFIP), or who is having a payment made on the person's behalf under sections 256I.01 to 256I.06; or

(2) who is a resident of Minnesota; and

(i) who has gross countable income not in excess of 75 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for the family size, using a six-month budget period and whose equity in assets is not in excess of \$1,000 per assistance unit. General assistance medical care is not available for applicants or enrollees who are otherwise eligible for medical assistance but fail to verify their assets. Enrollees who become eligible for medical assistance shall be terminated and transferred to medical assistance. Exempt assets, the reduction of excess assets, and the waiver of excess assets must conform to the medical assistance program in section 256B.056, subdivisions 3 and 3d, with the following exception: the maximum amount of undistributed funds in a trust that could

be distributed to or on behalf of the beneficiary by the trustee, assuming the full exercise of the trustee's discretion under the terms of the trust, must be applied toward the asset maximum; or

(ii) who has gross countable income above 75 percent of the federal poverty guidelines but not in excess of 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for the family size, using a six-month budget period, whose equity in assets is not in excess of the limits in section 256B.056, subdivision 3c, and who applies during an inpatient hospitalization.

(b) The commissioner shall adjust the income standards under this section each July 1 by the annual update of the federal poverty guidelines following publication by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

(c) Effective for applications and renewals processed on or after September 1, 2006, general assistance medical care may not be paid for applicants or recipients who are adults with dependent children under 21 whose gross family income is equal to or less than 275 percent of the federal poverty guidelines who are not described in paragraph (f).

(d) Effective for applications and renewals processed on or after September 1, 2006, general assistance medical care may be paid for applicants and recipients who meet all eligibility requirements of paragraph (a), clause (2), item (i), for a temporary period beginning the date of application. Immediately following approval of general assistance medical care, enrollees shall be enrolled in MinnesotaCare under section 256L.04, subdivision 7, with covered services as provided in section 256L.03 for the rest of the six-month general assistance medical care eligibility period, until their six-month renewal.

(e) To be eligible for general assistance medical care following enrollment in MinnesotaCare as required by paragraph (d), an individual must complete a new application.

(f) Applicants and recipients eligible under paragraph (a), clause (2), item (i), are exempt from the MinnesotaCare enrollment requirements in this subdivision if they:

(1) have applied for and are awaiting a determination of blindness or disability by the state medical review team or a determination of eligibility for Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance by the Social Security Administration;

(2) fail to meet the requirements of section 256L.09, subdivision 2;

(3) are homeless as defined by United States Code, title 42, section 11301, et seq.;

(4) are classified as end-stage renal disease beneficiaries in the Medicare program;

(5) are enrolled in private health care coverage as defined in section 256B.02, subdivision 9;

(6) are eligible under paragraph (k);

(7) receive treatment funded pursuant to section 254B.02; or

(8) reside in the Minnesota sex offender program defined in chapter 246B.

(g) For applications received on or after October 1, 2003, eligibility may begin no earlier than the date of application. For individuals eligible under paragraph (a), clause (2), item (i), a redetermination of eligibility must occur every 12 months. Individuals are eligible under paragraph (a), clause (2), item (ii), only during inpatient hospitalization but may reapply if there is a subsequent period of inpatient hospitalization.

(h) Beginning September 1, 2006, Minnesota health care program applications and renewals completed by recipients and applicants who are persons described in paragraph (d) and submitted to the county agency shall be determined for MinnesotaCare eligibility by the county agency. If all other eligibility requirements of this subdivision are met, eligibility for general assistance medical care shall be available in any month during which MinnesotaCare enrollment is pending. Upon notification of eligibility for MinnesotaCare, notice of termination for eligibility for general assistance medical care shall be sent to an applicant or recipient. If all other eligibility requirements of this subdivision are met, eligibility for general assistance medical care shall be available until enrollment in MinnesotaCare subject to the provisions of paragraphs (d), (f), and (g).

(i) The date of an initial Minnesota health care program application necessary to begin a determination of eligibility shall be the date the applicant has provided a name, address, and Social Security number, signed and dated, to the county agency or the Department of Human Services. If the applicant is unable to provide a name, address, Social Security number, and signature when health care is delivered due to a medical condition or disability, a health care provider may act on an applicant's behalf to establish the date of an initial Minnesota health care program application by providing the county agency or Department of Human Services with provider identification and a temporary unique identifier for the applicant. The applicant must complete the remainder of the application and provide necessary verification before eligibility can be determined. The applicant must complete the application within the time periods required under the medical assistance program as specified in Minnesota Rules, parts 9505.0015, subpart 5, and 9505.0090, subpart 2. The county agency must assist the applicant in obtaining verification if necessary.

(j) County agencies are authorized to use all automated databases containing information regarding recipients' or applicants' income in order to determine eligibility for general assistance medical care or MinnesotaCare. Such use shall be considered sufficient in order to determine eligibility and premium payments by the county agency.

(k) General assistance medical care is not available for a person in a correctional facility unless the person is detained by law for less than one year in a county correctional or detention facility as a person accused or convicted of a crime, or admitted as an inpatient to a hospital on a criminal hold order, and the person is a recipient of general assistance medical care at the time the person is detained by law or admitted on a criminal hold order and as long as the person continues to meet other eligibility requirements of this subdivision.

(l) General assistance medical care is not available for applicants or recipients who do not cooperate with the county agency to meet the requirements of medical assistance.

(m) In determining the amount of assets of an individual eligible under paragraph (a), clause (2), item (i), there shall be included any asset or interest in an asset, including an asset excluded under paragraph (a), that was given away, sold, or disposed of for less than fair market value within the 60 months preceding application for general assistance medical care or during the period of eligibility. Any transfer described in this paragraph shall be presumed to have been for the purpose of establishing eligibility for general assistance medical care, unless the individual furnishes convincing evidence to establish that the transaction was exclusively for another purpose. For purposes of this paragraph, the value of the asset or interest shall be the fair market value at the time it was given away, sold, or disposed of, less the amount of compensation received. For any uncompensated transfer, the number of months of ineligibility, including partial months, shall be calculated by dividing the uncompensated transfer amount by the average monthly per person payment made by the medical assistance program to skilled nursing facilities for the previous calendar year. The individual shall remain ineligible until this fixed period has expired. The period of ineligibility may exceed 30 months, and a reapplication for benefits after 30 months from the date of the transfer shall not result in eligibility unless and until the period of ineligibility has expired. The period of ineligibility begins in the month the transfer was reported to the county agency, or if the transfer was not reported, the month in which the county agency discovered the transfer, whichever comes first. For applicants, the period of ineligibility begins on the date of the first approved application.

(n) When determining eligibility for any state benefits under this subdivision, the income and resources of all noncitizens shall be deemed to include their sponsor's income and resources as defined in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, title IV, Public Law 104-193, sections 421 and 422, and subsequently set out in federal rules.

(o) Undocumented noncitizens and nonimmigrants are ineligible for general assistance medical care. For purposes of this subdivision, a nonimmigrant is an individual in one or more of the classes listed in United States Code, title 8, section 1101, subsection (a), paragraph (15),

and an undocumented noncitizen is an individual who resides in the United States without the approval or acquiescence of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(p) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a noncitizen who is ineligible for medical assistance due to the deeming of a sponsor's income and resources, is ineligible for general assistance medical care.

(q) Effective July 1, 2003, general assistance medical care emergency services end.

Subd. 3a. **Claims; assignment of benefits.** Claims must be filed pursuant to section 256D.16. General assistance medical care applicants and recipients must apply or agree to apply third party health and accident benefits to the costs of medical care. They must cooperate with the state in establishing paternity and obtaining third party payments. By accepting general assistance, a person assigns to the Department of Human Services all rights to medical support or payments for medical expenses from another person or entity on their own or their dependent's behalf and agrees to cooperate with the state in establishing paternity and obtaining third party payments. The application shall contain a statement explaining the assignment. Any rights or amounts assigned shall be applied against the cost of medical care paid for under this chapter. An assignment is effective on the date general assistance medical care eligibility takes effect.

Subd. 3b. **Cooperation.** (a) General assistance or general assistance medical care applicants and recipients must cooperate with the state and local agency to identify potentially liable third-party payors and assist the state in obtaining third-party payments. Cooperation includes identifying any third party who may be liable for care and services provided under this chapter to the applicant, recipient, or any other family member for whom application is made and providing relevant information to assist the state in pursuing a potentially liable third party. General assistance medical care applicants and recipients must cooperate by providing information about any group health plan in which they may be eligible to enroll. They must cooperate with the state and local agency in determining if the plan is cost-effective. For purposes of this subdivision, coverage provided by the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association under chapter 62E shall not be considered group health plan coverage or cost-effective by the state and local agency. If the plan is determined cost-effective and the premium will be paid by the state or local agency or is available at no cost to the person, they must enroll or remain enrolled in the group health plan. Cost-effective insurance premiums approved for payment by the state agency and paid by the local agency are eligible for reimbursement according to subdivision 6.

(b) Effective for all premiums due on or after June 30, 1997, general assistance medical care does not cover premiums that a recipient is required to pay under a qualified or Medicare supplement plan issued by the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association. General assistance

medical care shall continue to cover premiums for recipients who are covered under a plan issued by the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association on June 30, 1997, for a period of six months following receipt of the notice of termination or until December 31, 1997, whichever is later.

Subd. 4. **General assistance medical care; services.** (a)(i) For a person who is eligible under subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (2), item (i), general assistance medical care covers, except as provided in paragraph (c):

- (1) inpatient hospital services;
- (2) outpatient hospital services;
- (3) services provided by Medicare certified rehabilitation agencies;
- (4) prescription drugs and other products recommended through the process established in section 256B.0625, subdivision 13;
- (5) equipment necessary to administer insulin and diagnostic supplies and equipment for diabetics to monitor blood sugar level;
- (6) eyeglasses and eye examinations provided by a physician or optometrist;
- (7) hearing aids;
- (8) prosthetic devices;
- (9) laboratory and X-ray services;
- (10) physician's services;
- (11) medical transportation except special transportation;
- (12) chiropractic services as covered under the medical assistance program;
- (13) podiatric services;
- (14) dental services as covered under the medical assistance program;
- (15) mental health services covered under chapter 256B;
- (16) prescribed medications for persons who have been diagnosed as mentally ill as necessary to prevent more restrictive institutionalization;
- (17) medical supplies and equipment, and Medicare premiums, coinsurance and deductible payments;
- (18) medical equipment not specifically listed in this paragraph when the use of the equipment will prevent the need for costlier services that are reimbursable under this subdivision;

(19) services performed by a certified pediatric nurse practitioner, a certified family nurse practitioner, a certified adult nurse practitioner, a certified obstetric/gynecological nurse practitioner, a certified neonatal nurse practitioner, or a certified geriatric nurse practitioner in independent practice, if (1) the service is otherwise covered under this chapter as a physician service, (2) the service provided on an inpatient basis is not included as part of the cost for inpatient services included in the operating payment rate, and (3) the service is within the scope of practice of the nurse practitioner's license as a registered nurse, as defined in section 148.171;

(20) services of a certified public health nurse or a registered nurse practicing in a public health nursing clinic that is a department of, or that operates under the direct authority of, a unit of government, if the service is within the scope of practice of the public health nurse's license as a registered nurse, as defined in section 148.171;

(21) telemedicine consultations, to the extent they are covered under section 256B.0625, subdivision 3b;

(22) care coordination and patient education services provided by a community health worker according to section 256B.0625, subdivision 49; and

(23) regardless of the number of employees that an enrolled health care provider may have, sign language interpreter services when provided by an enrolled health care provider during the course of providing a direct, person-to-person covered health care service to an enrolled recipient who has a hearing loss and uses interpreting services.

(ii) Effective October 1, 2003, for a person who is eligible under subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (2), item (ii), general assistance medical care coverage is limited to inpatient hospital services, including physician services provided during the inpatient hospital stay. A \$1,000 deductible is required for each inpatient hospitalization.

(b) Effective August 1, 2005, sex reassignment surgery is not covered under this subdivision.

(c) In order to contain costs, the commissioner of human services shall select vendors of medical care who can provide the most economical care consistent with high medical standards and shall where possible contract with organizations on a prepaid capitation basis to provide these services. The commissioner shall consider proposals by counties and vendors for prepaid health plans, competitive bidding programs, block grants, or other vendor payment mechanisms designed to provide services in an economical manner or to control utilization, with safeguards to ensure that necessary services are provided. Before implementing prepaid programs in counties with a county operated or affiliated public teaching hospital or a hospital or clinic operated by the University of Minnesota, the commissioner shall consider the risks the prepaid program creates for the hospital and allow the county or hospital the opportunity to participate in the program in

a manner that reflects the risk of adverse selection and the nature of the patients served by the hospital, provided the terms of participation in the program are competitive with the terms of other participants considering the nature of the population served. Payment for services provided pursuant to this subdivision shall be as provided to medical assistance vendors of these services under sections 256B.02, subdivision 8, and 256B.0625. For payments made during fiscal year 1990 and later years, the commissioner shall consult with an independent actuary in establishing prepayment rates, but shall retain final control over the rate methodology.

(d) Effective January 1, 2008, drug coverage under general assistance medical care is limited to prescription drugs that:

(i) are covered under the medical assistance program as described in section 256B.0625, subdivisions 13 and 13d; and

(ii) are provided by manufacturers that have fully executed general assistance medical care rebate agreements with the commissioner and comply with the agreements. Prescription drug coverage under general assistance medical care must conform to coverage under the medical assistance program according to section 256B.0625, subdivisions 13 to 13g.

(e) Recipients eligible under subdivision 3, paragraph (a), shall pay the following co-payments for services provided on or after October 1, 2003, and before January 1, 2009:

(1) \$25 for eyeglasses;

(2) \$25 for nonemergency visits to a hospital-based emergency room;

(3) \$3 per brand-name drug prescription and \$1 per generic drug prescription, subject to a \$12 per month maximum for prescription drug co-payments. No co-payments shall apply to antipsychotic drugs when used for the treatment of mental illness; and

(4) 50 percent coinsurance on restorative dental services.

(f) Recipients eligible under subdivision 3, paragraph (a), shall include the following co-payments for services provided on or after January 1, 2009:

(1) \$25 for nonemergency visits to a hospital-based emergency room; and

(2) \$3 per brand-name drug prescription and \$1 per generic drug prescription, subject to a \$7 per month maximum for prescription drug co-payments. No co-payments shall apply to antipsychotic drugs when used for the treatment of mental illness.

(g) MS 2007 Supp [Expired]

(h) Effective January 1, 2009, co-payments shall be limited to one per day per provider for nonemergency visits to a hospital-based emergency room. Recipients of general assistance

medical care are responsible for all co-payments in this subdivision. The general assistance medical care reimbursement to the provider shall be reduced by the amount of the co-payment, except that reimbursement for prescription drugs shall not be reduced once a recipient has reached the \$7 per month maximum for prescription drug co-payments. The provider collects the co-payment from the recipient. Providers may not deny services to recipients who are unable to pay the co-payment.

(i) General assistance medical care reimbursement to fee-for-service providers and payments to managed care plans shall not be increased as a result of the removal of the co-payments effective January 1, 2009.

(j) Any county may, from its own resources, provide medical payments for which state payments are not made.

(k) Chemical dependency services that are reimbursed under chapter 254B must not be reimbursed under general assistance medical care.

(l) The maximum payment for new vendors enrolled in the general assistance medical care program after the base year shall be determined from the average usual and customary charge of the same vendor type enrolled in the base year.

(m) The conditions of payment for services under this subdivision are the same as the conditions specified in rules adopted under chapter 256B governing the medical assistance program, unless otherwise provided by statute or rule.

(n) Inpatient and outpatient payments shall be reduced by five percent, effective July 1, 2003. This reduction is in addition to the five percent reduction effective July 1, 2003, and incorporated by reference in paragraph (l).

(o) Payments for all other health services except inpatient, outpatient, and pharmacy services shall be reduced by five percent, effective July 1, 2003.

(p) Payments to managed care plans shall be reduced by five percent for services provided on or after October 1, 2003.

(q) A hospital receiving a reduced payment as a result of this section may apply the unpaid balance toward satisfaction of the hospital's bad debts.

(r) Fee-for-service payments for nonpreventive visits shall be reduced by \$3 for services provided on or after January 1, 2006. For purposes of this subdivision, a visit means an episode of service which is required because of a recipient's symptoms, diagnosis, or established illness, and which is delivered in an ambulatory setting by a physician or physician ancillary, chiropractor, podiatrist, advance practice nurse, audiologist, optician, or optometrist.

(s) Payments to managed care plans shall not be increased as a result of the removal of the \$3 nonpreventive visit co-payment effective January 1, 2006.

(t) Payments for mental health services added as covered benefits after December 31, 2007, are not subject to the reductions in paragraphs (l), (n), (o), and (p).

(u) Effective for services provided on or after July 1, 2009, total payment rates for basic care services shall be reduced by three percent, in accordance with section 256B.766. Payments made to managed care plans shall be reduced for services provided on or after October 1, 2009, to reflect this reduction.

(v) Effective for services provided on or after July 1, 2009, payment rates for physician and professional services shall be reduced as described under section 256B.76, subdivision 1, paragraph (c). Payments made to managed care and county-based purchasing plans shall be reduced for services provided on or after October 1, 2009, to reflect this reduction.

Subd. 5. Certain county agencies to pay state for county share. The county agencies that contract with the commissioner of human services for state administration of general assistance medical care payments shall make payment to the state for the county share of those payments in the manner described for medical assistance advances in section 256B.041, subdivision 5.

Subd. 6. Division of costs. The state share of county agency expenditures for general assistance medical care shall be 100 percent. Payments made under this subdivision shall be made according to sections 256B.041, subdivision 5 and 256B.19, subdivision 1. In counties where a pilot or demonstration project is operated for general assistance medical care services, the state may pay 100 percent of the costs of administering the pilot or demonstration project.

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, beginning July 1, 1991, the state shall pay 100 percent of the costs for centralized claims processing by the Department of Administration relative to claims beginning January 1, 1991, and submitted on behalf of general assistance medical care recipients by vendors in the general assistance medical care program.

Beginning July 1, 1991, the state shall reimburse counties up to the limit of state appropriations for general assistance medical care common carrier transportation and related travel expenses provided for medical purposes after December 31, 1990. For purposes of this subdivision, transportation shall have the meaning given it in Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 440.170(a), as amended through October 1, 1987, and travel expenses shall have the meaning given in Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 440.170(a)(3), as amended through October 1, 1987.

The county shall ensure that only the least costly most appropriate transportation and travel expenses are used. The state may enter into volume purchase contracts, or use a competitive bidding process, whenever feasible, to minimize the costs of transportation services. If the state has entered into a volume purchase contract or used the competitive bidding procedures of chapter 16C to arrange for transportation services, the county may be required to use such arrangements to be eligible for state reimbursement for general assistance medical care common carrier transportation and related travel expenses provided for medical purposes.

In counties where prepaid health plans are under contract to the commissioner to provide services to general assistance medical care recipients, the cost of court ordered treatment that does not include diagnostic evaluation, recommendation, or referral for treatment by the prepaid health plan is the responsibility of the county of financial responsibility.

Subd. 7. Duties of the commissioner. The commissioner shall promulgate rules as necessary to establish:

(a) standards of eligibility, utilization of services, and payment levels;

(b) standards for quality assurance, surveillance, and utilization review procedures that conform to those established for the medical assistance program pursuant to chapter 256B, including general criteria and procedures for the identification and prompt investigation of suspected fraud, theft, abuse, presentment of false or duplicate claims, presentment of claims for services not medically necessary, or false statements or representations of material facts by a vendor or recipient of general assistance medical care, and for the imposition of sanctions against such vendor or recipient of medical care. The rules relating to sanctions shall be consistent with the provisions of section 256B.064, subdivisions 1a and 2; and

(c) administrative and fiscal procedures for payment of the state share of the medical costs incurred by the counties under section 256D.02, subdivision 4a. Rules promulgated pursuant to this clause may include: (1) procedures by which state liability for the costs of medical care incurred pursuant to section 256D.02, subdivision 4a may be deducted from county liability to the state under any other public assistance program authorized by law; (2) procedures for processing claims of counties for reimbursement by the state for expenditures for medical care made by the counties pursuant to section 256D.02, subdivision 4a; and (3) procedures by which the county agencies may contract with the commissioner of human services for state administration of general assistance medical care payments.

Subd. 8. Private insurance policies. (a) Private accident and health care coverage for medical services is primary coverage and must be exhausted before general assistance medical care is paid. When a person who is otherwise eligible for general assistance medical care has

private accident or health care coverage, including a prepaid health plan, the private health care benefits available to the person must be used first and to the fullest extent. General assistance medical care payment will not be made when either covered charges are paid in full by a third party or the provider has an agreement to accept payment for less than charges as payment in full. Payment for patients that are simultaneously covered by general assistance medical care and a liable third party other than Medicare will be determined as the lesser of clauses (1) to (3):

- (1) the patient liability according to the provider/insurer agreement;
- (2) covered charges minus the third party payment amount; or
- (3) the general assistance medical care rate minus the third party payment amount.

A negative difference will not be implemented.

(b) When a parent or a person with an obligation of support has enrolled in a prepaid health care plan under section 518A.41, subdivision 1, the commissioner of human services shall limit the recipient of general assistance medical care to the benefits payable under that prepaid health care plan to the extent that services available under general assistance medical care are also available under the prepaid health care plan.

(c) Upon furnishing general assistance medical care or general assistance to any person having private accident or health care coverage, or having a cause of action arising out of an occurrence that necessitated the payment of assistance, the state agency shall be subrogated, to the extent of the cost of medical care, subsistence, or other payments furnished, to any rights the person may have under the terms of the coverage or under the cause of action. For purposes of this subdivision, "state agency" includes prepaid health plans under contract with the commissioner according to subdivision 4, paragraph (c), and sections 256B.69 and 256L.12; children's mental health collaboratives under section 245.493; demonstration projects for persons with disabilities under section 256B.77; nursing homes under the alternative payment demonstration project under section 256B.434; and county-based purchasing entities under section 256B.692.

This right of subrogation includes all portions of the cause of action, notwithstanding any settlement allocation or apportionment that purports to dispose of portions of the cause of action not subject to subrogation.

(d) To recover under this section, the attorney general may institute or join a civil action to enforce the subrogation rights the commissioner established under this section.

Any prepaid health plan providing services under subdivision 4, paragraph (c), and sections 256B.69 and 256L.12; children's mental health collaboratives under section 245.493; demonstration projects for persons with disabilities under section 256B.77; nursing homes under

the alternative payment demonstration project under section 256B.434; or the county-based purchasing entity providing services under section 256B.692 may retain legal representation to enforce the subrogation rights created under this section or, if no action has been brought, may initiate and prosecute an independent action on their behalf against a person, firm, or corporation that may be liable to the person to whom the care or payment was furnished.

(e) The state agency must be given notice of monetary claims against a person, firm, or corporation that may be liable in damages, or otherwise obligated to pay part or all of the costs related to an injury when the state agency has paid or become liable for the cost of care or payments related to the injury. Notice must be given as follows:

(i) Applicants for general assistance or general assistance medical care shall notify the state or county agency of any possible claims when they submit the application. Recipients of general assistance or general assistance medical care shall notify the state or county agency of any possible claims when those claims arise.

(ii) A person providing medical care services to a recipient of general assistance medical care shall notify the state agency when the person has reason to believe that a third party may be liable for payment of the cost of medical care.

(iii) A person who is party to a claim upon which the state agency may be entitled to subrogation under this section shall notify the state agency of its potential subrogation claim before filing a claim, commencing an action, or negotiating a settlement. A person who is a party to a claim includes the plaintiff, the defendants, and any other party to the cause of action.

Notice given to the county agency is not sufficient to meet the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c).

(f) Upon any judgment, award, or settlement of a cause of action, or any part of it, upon which the state agency has a subrogation right, including compensation for liquidated, unliquidated, or other damages, reasonable costs of collection, including attorney fees, must be deducted first. The full amount of general assistance or general assistance medical care paid to or on behalf of the person as a result of the injury must be deducted next and paid to the state agency. The rest must be paid to the public assistance recipient or other plaintiff. The plaintiff, however, must receive at least one-third of the net recovery after attorney fees and collection costs.

Subd. 9. Payment for ambulance services. Effective for services rendered on or after July 1, 1999, general assistance medical care payments for ambulance services shall be increased by five percent.

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 3; 1975 c 437 art 2 s 8; 1976 c 186 s 1; 1979 c 303 art 2 s 2; 1980 c 349 s 9; 1980 c 536 s 8-10; 1980 c 607 art 2 s 3; 1981 c 360 art 2 s 2 subd 4,34; 1Sp1981 c 2 s 16 subd 2; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 4 s 21; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1982 c 623 s 2; 1983 c 312 art 5 s 29-33; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 30,58; 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 57,58; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 29; 1986 c 394 s 19; 1987 c 370 art 2 s 15; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 103-105; art 3 s 30; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 188,268; 1988 c 719 art 8 s 18,19; 1989 c 209 art 1 s 24; 1989 c 282 art 3 s 91,92; art 5 s 49; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 10,11; 1990 c 422 s 10; 1990 c 568 art 3 s 86-89; art 4 s 25,84; 1991 c 292 art 4 s 68,69; art 5 s 30,31; 1992 c 513 art 7 s 127,128; art 8 s 17; 1993 c 345 art 9 s 15; 1Sp1993 c 1 art 5 s 113,114; art 6 s 28; art 8 s 3; 1995 c 178 art 2 s 28; art 6 s 17; 1995 c 207 art 6 s 104-106; 1996 c 451 art 5 s 33; 1996 c 465 art 3 s 29-31; 1997 c 7 art 5 s 32; 1997 c 85 art 3 s 29; 1997 c 203 art 4 s 57; art 11 s 8-10; art 12 s 4; 1997 c 225 art 1 s 19; art 6 s 6,8; 1998 c 386 art 2 s 81; 1998 c 407 art 4 s 55,56; art 5 s 6; 1999 c 245 art 4 s 86-88; art 10 s 10; 2000 c 340 s 14; 2000 c 488 art 11 s 8; 2001 c 203 s 15; 1Sp2001 c 9 art 2 s 56; art 10 s 66; 2002 c 277 s 32; 2002 c 379 art 1 s 113; 1Sp2003 c 14 art 2 s 41; art 12 s 68,69; 1Sp2003 c 23 s 30; 2004 c 228 art 1 s 43; 2004 c 288 art 6 s 23,24; 2005 c 98 art 2 s 14; 2005 c 164 s 29; 1Sp2005 c 4 art 2 s 15; art 8 s 52,53; 1Sp2005 c 7 s 28; 2006 c 280 s 46; 2006 c 282 art 16 s 11; 2007 c 13 art 1 s 25; 2007 c 147 art 5 s 16,17; art 8 s 28; 2008 c 286 art 1 s 9; 2008 c 326 art 1 s 40; 2009 c 79 art 5 s 53; 2009 c 173 art 1 s 33; art 3 s 17