
Policy: Spousal Supplement for Two-Bed Room Shared by Spouses**Date: April 1, 2011**

1.1 Introduction

This policy outlines the rules and conditions by which Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) will fund Long-Term Care Home (LTCH) licensees a supplement where spouses reside in a two-bed room in a LTCH within the meaning of subclause (i.1) of the definition of “standard room” in section 1 of Ontario Regulation (O.Reg.) 79/10 under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* (LTCHA).

This policy aligns with the Ministry’s commitment to remove financial barriers to spouses residing together in a two-bed LTCH room. As of April 1, 2011, LTCH licensees are prohibited from charging spouses residing together in a two-bed room the semi-private accommodation amount, as this type of room is now defined as a standard room as long as the spouses continue to occupy the room.

Each spouse occupying a bed residing together in a two-bed room will also be able to apply for a rate reduction on or after April 1, 2011.

2.1 Definitions

Spousal Supplement – means the difference between the long-stay semi-private daily maximum and the long-stay basic daily maximum as set out in section 247 of O.Reg. 79/10 under the LTCHA.

Spouse – means either of two persons who:

- (1) are married to each other;
- (2) have together entered into a marriage that is voidable or void, in good faith; or
- (3) live together in a conjugal relationship outside of marriage.

Two-Bed Room – means a room with two beds that is occupied by spouses in a LTCH to which the 1999 design manual, 2009 design manual or the retrofit manual do not apply, as set out in subclause (i.1) of the definition of “standard room” in section 1 of O.Reg. 79/10 under the LTCHA.

3.1 Scope

LHINs will pay LTCH licensees the daily Spousal Supplement for each bed in the two-bed room to offset the loss of semi-private income that may otherwise have been charged for a two-bed room if the room had not been occupied by spouses and defined as a standard room.

When one spouse no longer occupies a bed in the room, the LHINs will continue to fund LTCH licensees the daily Spousal Supplement for the bed occupied by the remaining spouse until that remaining spouse either:

- Transfers to a standard room; or
- Enters into an agreement with the LTCH licensee to pay for preferred accommodation.

4.1 Year-End Reconciliation of Funding

The LHINs will pay the Spousal Supplements as required by 2.1 above to the LTCH licensees through the annual reconciliation process.

4.1.1 Annual Reconciliation Process

- i. LTCH licensees will be required to submit an audited LTCH Annual Report for a defined 12 month period in accordance with the form and manner set out in the *LTCH Reconciliation and Recovery Policy* and “LTCH Annual Report Technical Instructions and Guidelines”.
- ii. In the LTCH Annual Report, the LTCH licensee will report on the number of resident-days for the period April 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011, and for every 12 month period starting January 1, thereafter. Resident-days will be calculated:
 - a. For the period where spouses occupy a two-bed room; and
 - b. When one spouse no longer occupies a bed in the room, for the period until the remaining spouse either transfers to a standard room or enters into an agreement with the LTCH licensee for preferred accommodation.
- iii. At the time of annual reconciliation, on behalf of the LHIN, the Ministry will use this information to calculate an adjustment for the LTCH licensee’s Spousal Supplements for the period¹.

5.1 References to Other Policy Documents and Technical Instructions and Guidelines

For further information, please refer to:

Agreements -
Long-Term Care Homes Service Accountability Agreement

Policy -
LTCH Reconciliation and Recovery Policy

Technical Instructions and Guidelines² -
LTCH Annual Report Technical Instructions and Guidelines

¹ For report submission instructions and technical instructions and guidelines, please refer to the “LTCH Annual Report Technical Instructions and Guidelines”

² LTCH Annual Report submission instructions and guidelines are issued annually. Consult the applicable document in effect for the period for which the report data is being submitted and reviewed.