

(Rev. 135, Issued: 02-27-15, Effective: 04-27-15, Implementation: 04-27-15)

§483.420(a)(4) Allow individual clients to manage their financial affairs and teach them to do so to the extent of their capabilities;

Guidance §483.420(a)(4)

The regulation is clear that in those cases where a client already possesses the skills necessary to independently manage their own financial affairs, the facility will allow the client to continue to do so. Formal training in financial management must be provided for all other clients in the facility to the extent of their capabilities. The regulation places the responsibility for determining the extent of the client's capabilities in this matter upon an assessment and interdisciplinary process within the facility.

To reach a determination as to whether a money management program is appropriate, the facility IDT uses the comprehensive functional assessment (CFA) to evaluate the ability of each client to participate in such a program. Under 42 C.F.R. 483.440(c)(3), the team evaluation must establish, through documentation, that the IDT considers all of the objective data within the assessment in reaching their determination, especially the identification of client skills which can be used across training programs. Examples of assessment findings that may be considered by the IDT include skills that can be cross-utilized in training programs such as:

1. Fine motor coordination;

2. The ability to make choices;
3. The ability to identify preferences; and
4. Cognitive abilities including tracking, attention span, communication, and the client's ability to understand the cause and effect. (The client understands of cause and effect is significant in the determination.)

Money management includes a broad spectrum of programs with varying levels of participation by the client ranging from the use of choice in money expenditures, to an understanding of the concept of money, and ultimately to actual money handling and budgeting. The IDT must not conclude that a money management program is inappropriate based solely upon the level of intellectual or physical disability of the client.

The CFA must be reviewed at least annually per 42 C.F.R.483.440(f)(2). As a part of this annual review, a client's ability to participate in money management will also be reviewed. The annual review should always include an update to the CFA and take into consideration any changes in the client's circumstances since the last IPP. The need for a formal money management program must be addressed in every client's IPP by the IDT on an annual basis.

The determination of the appropriateness of a formal money management program is made by the IDT and must be based upon a CFA. The IDT discussions resulting in that determination must be established through documentation in the client's IPP.