

## **Can my mom have a private nursing home room even though she depends on Medicaid funding?**

Until recently, once on Medicaid, a resident had little option but to live in a shared room.

This not only meant less space to have personal items that made a “room a home” but could be extremely difficult when an elderly person suddenly must share space with a stranger, especially if the stranger did not have the same interests or habits.

A revision to Iowa law allows nursing facilities to collect additional payment above the Medicaid payment from residents and families who desire a private room. Iowa Code section 249A.4 (10) makes this allowable when certain conditions are met. Due to the changes in the Iowa Code, administrative rules were amended, filed, and adopted after comment in an effort to implement this new policy. These amendments became effective July 1, 2013 and update Chapter 81, “Nursing Facilities” of the Iowa Administrative Code. The amendments can be found at 81.10(5)(e)(4).

If a nursing facility provides for supplementation for provision of a private room, the facility shall inform all residents, prospective residents, and their legal representatives of the following:

That if the resident desires a private room, the resident or resident’s family may provide supplementation by directly paying the facility the amount of supplementation.

The nursing facility’s policy if a resident residing in a private room converts from private pay to payment under the medical assistance program but the resident or resident’s family is not willing or able to pay supplementation for the private room.

The private rooms for which supplementation is available, including a description and identification of such rooms; and

The process for an individual to take legal responsibility for providing supplementation, including identification of the individual and the extent of the legal responsibility.

Supplementation shall not be required as a precondition of admission, expedited admission, or continued stay in a facility.

*The mission of the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman is to protect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of individuals residing in long-term care by investigating complaints, seeking resolutions to problems, and providing advocacy with the goal of enhancing quality of life and care.*