

Title 23: Medicaid

Part 103: Resources

Part 103 Chapter 6: Annuities

Rule 6.1: Annuities Defined for Medicaid Purposes

A. Annuities – General (Applies Regardless of Purchase Date)

1. An annuity is defined as a contract or agreement by which one receives fixed, non-variable payments on an investment for a lifetime or a specified number of years.
 - a) An individual may buy an annuity by making payments over a period of time or purchase an immediate annuity by paying a lump sum to a bank or insurance company in return for regular payments of income in certain amounts.
 - b) When an annuity is “annuitized,” the investment is converted into periodic income payments.
 - c) These payments may continue for a fixed period of time or for as long as the individual or another beneficiary lives.
2. The annuitant is the person who will receive the payments during the term of the annuity. The annuity contract should identify the purchaser (owner) and the annuitant. The owner and the annuitant may or may not be the same; however, the policy described in this chapter applies to annuities purchased with the applicant’s or recipient’s own funds by the applicant/recipient, spouse, guardian or legal representative and which name the applicant/recipient or spouse as the annuitant.
3. An annuity may or may not include a remainder clause under which, if the annuitant dies, the contracting entity converts whatever is remaining in the annuity into a lump sum and pays it to a designated beneficiary.
4. Annuities, although usually purchased in order to provide a source of income for retirement, are occasionally used to shelter assets so that individuals purchasing them can be eligible for Medicaid. In order to avoid penalizing annuities validly purchased as part of a retirement plan but to capture those intended to shelter assets, a determination must be made with regard to the ultimate purpose of the annuity, i.e., whether or not it is part of a bona fide retirement plan.
5. Transfer of assets policy will be considered when an applicant or recipient’s own funds are used to purchase an annuity for someone other than the applicant/recipient or their spouse. Likewise, if the right to receive payment is assigned to someone other than the applicant/recipient, spouse or to a minor or disabled child of the applicant, a transfer of assets will be considered.

B. Revocable Annuities (Applies Regardless of Purchase Date)

1. An annuity that is revocable is a countable resource unless it can be excluded under another provision, such as an income-producing asset meeting the 6% of equity provision for annuities purchased prior to 02/08/2006. Some annuities which appear irrevocable may be revocable with a penalty, reducing the total value. Generally, an annuity is revocable until the time the annuity is annuitized. Verification is needed to make a determination.
2. An annuity is a countable resource if it can be sold, cashed in, surrendered or revoked. An annuity that can be revoked is valued at the amount the purchaser would receive if canceled.
3. An annuity is a countable resource if it can be assigned to a new owner or the payments transferred to someone else. If an annuity is assignable, it is valued at the amount the annuity can be sold on the secondary market.

C. Irrevocable Annuities (Applies Regardless of Purchase Date)

1. If an annuity cannot be revoked or cashed in and the annuity contract does not allow the annuitant to transfer ownership or payments to someone else, the annuity is not a countable resource, although it may be a transfer of assets if purchased within the five (5) year look back period as outlined in this chapter.
2. If periodic payments are not being made, the individual must take all steps necessary to receive periodic payments as outlined in this chapter. If periodic payments are denied but a lump sum payment is possible, the lump sum amount is a countable resource.

D. Payments Produced by Annuities (Applies Regardless of Purchase Date)

1. Annuity payments paid to the annuitant are countable income regardless of whether the annuity itself is countable as an asset or treated as a disqualifying transfer. Certain conditions apply to the frequency and amount of the payments required in order for an annuity to avoid being treated as a transfer of assets, as described within this chapter.

E. Non-Annuitized Annuity (or any portion thereof) (Applies Regardless of Purchase Date)

1. The equity value of an annuity that is not annuitized or any part of an annuity that is not annuitized is counted as a countable resource. Verification is needed to make a determination.

Source: Social Security Act §1917 (c) and (d); Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA-93) § 13611(Rev. 1993); Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 §6011 and §6016 (Rev. 2006).

History: Revised eff. 11/01/2014.

Rule 6.2: Treatment of Annuities Purchased prior to 2/8/2006.

- A. An annuity purchased before February 8, 2006, by or for an individual using that individual's assets will be considered a transfer of assets unless both of the following are met:
 - 1. The annuity produces a net annual return of at least 6% of its equity value; and
 - 2. Pays out principal and interest in equal monthly installments (no balloon payments) to the individual in sufficient amounts that the principal is paid out within the actuarial life expectancy of the individual seeking long term care services, including HCBS services.
- B. An annuity that meets the criteria above will be excluded as a resource and the income paid by the annuity counted as income to the annuitant.
- C. An annuity that does not meet the required conditions is a transfer of assets if purchased during the look back period. The income produced by the annuity counts as income to the annuitant during the transfer penalty period and the full payment period of the annuity.

Source: Social Security Act §1917(d); Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA-93) § 13611(Rev. 1993).

History: Revised eff. 11/01/2014.

Rule 6.3: Calculating the Uncompensated Value of Annuities Purchased prior to 02/08/2006.

The transfer penalty period for the purchase of an annuity prior to 02/08/2006 is calculated based on the value of the payments that would be beyond the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant.

- A. Divide the purchase price of the annuity by the number of payout years. This equals the annual rate.
- B. Use the life expectancy tables published by the Office of the Actuary of the Social Security Administration to determine the number of years the individual is expected to live.
- C. Subtract the number of years from the number of payout years.
- D. Multiply the difference by the annual rate. This is the uncompensated value.

Source: Social Security Act §1917(c); Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA-93) § 13611(Rev. 1993).

History: Revised eff. 11/01/2014.

Rule 6.4: Treatment of Annuities Purchased on or after 2/8/2006.

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA), P.L. 109-171 adds new requirements to the Medicaid statute with respect to the treatment of annuities purchased on or after the date of enactment, February 8, 2006, by or on behalf of an annuitant who has applied for Medicaid for nursing facility services or other long term care services. The DRA requirements also apply to certain other transactions involving annuities that take place on or after the date of enactment that are described below.

A. Disclosure Requirement

1. At each application and review for Medicaid, all long term care applicants are required to disclose any interest the applicant or community spouse may have in an annuity or similar financial instrument. Parents of a minor child must report any annuities in which the child may have an interest.
2. This disclosure is a condition for Medicaid eligibility for long-term care services, including nursing facility services and Home and Community-Based Waiver Services (HCBS) and applies regardless of whether or not an annuity is irrevocable or is treated as a resource.
3. Refusal to disclose sufficient information related to any annuity will result in denial or termination of Medicaid entirely, based on the applicant's failure to cooperate in accordance with existing Medicaid policies.
4. When an unreported annuity is discovered after eligibility has been established and after payment for long-term care services has been made, appropriate steps to terminate payment for long-term care services will be taken, including allowing for rebuttal and advance notice. In addition, an Improper Payment Report may be required to initiate recovery of incorrectly paid benefits.

B. Annuity-Related Transactions Other than Purchases Made on or after 2/8/2006

1. In addition to purchases of annuities, certain related transactions which occur to annuities on or after February 8, 2006, make an annuity, including one purchased before that date, subject to all provisions of the DRA that went into effect on 2/8/2006.
2. Any action taken on or after February 8, 2006, by the individual that changes the course of payment to be made by the annuity or the treatment of the income or principal of the annuity result in the annuity being treated as if purchased on or after 02/08/2006. These actions include:
 - a) Additions of principal,
 - b) Elective withdrawals,
 - c) Requests to change the distribution of the annuity, and

- d) Elections to annuitize the contract and similar actions.
- 3. For annuities purchased prior to February 8, 2006, routine changes and automatic events that do not require any action or decision after the effective date are not considered transactions that would subject the annuity to treatment under the DRA provisions. Routine changes could be notification of an address change or death or divorce of a remainder beneficiary and similar circumstances.
- 4. Changes which occur based on the terms of the annuity which existed prior to February 8, 2006, and which do not require a decision, election or action to take effect are also not subject to the DRA.

C. Requirement to Name the State as Remainder Beneficiary on Annuities

- 1. The purchase of an annuity within the five (5) year look back period will be treated as a transfer of assets unless the Mississippi Division of Medicaid is named as a remainder beneficiary in the correct position as described herein.
 - a) This requirement applies to annuities purchased by the applicant or spouse and to certain annuity-related transactions other than purchases made by the applicant or spouse.
 - b) An annuity must name the Division of Medicaid as the remainder beneficiary in the first position for the total amount of Medicaid assistance paid on behalf of the institutionalized individual who is the annuitant unless there is a community spouse and/or a minor or disabled child.
 - c) If there is a community spouse and/or minor or disabled child, the Division of Medicaid may be named in the next position after those individuals.
 - e) If DOM is named beneficiary after a community spouse and/or minor or disabled child, and any of those individuals or their representatives dispose of any of the remainder of the annuity for less than fair market value, the Division of Medicaid may then be named in the first position.
 - f) If verification is not provided which reflects the Division of Medicaid as remainder beneficiary in the correct position on annuities purchased by the institutionalized spouse or community spouse, the purchase of the annuity will be considered a transfer for less than fair market value. The full purchase value of the annuity will be considered the amount transferred.
- 2. An annuity purchased prior to the five (5) year look back period is treated as a resource and/or income source, depending on the terms of the annuity as outlined in Rule 6.1.

D. Information Provided by Agency to Issuer

1. For any annuity disclosed for the applicant or community spouse, the Division of Medicaid must inform the issuer of the annuity of the agency's right to be named as a preferred remainder beneficiary and may require the issuer to notify the agency regarding any changes in amount of income or principal being withdrawn from the annuity.
2. The issuer of the annuity may disclose information about the Division of Medicaid's position as remainder beneficiary to others who have a remainder interest in the annuity.

E. Treatment of Annuities in Determining Eligibility

1. In addition to the requirement for DOM to be named as a remainder beneficiary, an annuity purchased by or on behalf of an annuitant who has applied for medical assistance with respect to nursing facility or other long-term care services will not be treated as a transfer of assets if purchased within the five (5) year look back period or counted as a resource if certain conditions are met which are described below.
2. The annuity meets one of the following conditions:
 - a) It is an individual retirement annuity according to (b) or (q) of section 408 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC), or,
 - b) The annuity is purchased with proceeds from an account or trust described in subsection (a), (c) or (p) of section 408 of the IRC, or,
 - c) The annuity is purchased with proceeds from a simplified employee pension within the meaning of section 408 of the IRC, or,
 - d) The annuity is purchased with the proceeds from a Roth IRA described in section 408A of the IRC.
3. The purchase of an annuity not described in F.2. above will be considered a transfer of assets unless it meets all of the following requirements for every month in which eligibility is being considered:
 - a) The annuity is irrevocable and non-assignable; and,
 - b) The annuity is actuarially sound, meaning it will return the full investment including principal and interest within the annuitant's life expectancy as outlined in Rule 6.5.
 - c) The annuity is providing payments in approximately equal amounts of principal and interest with no deferred or balloon payments; and,
 - d) The annuity is issued by a business licensed and approved to issue commercial annuities in the state in which the annuity was purchased.

4. The purchase of a single-premium life insurance policy, endowment policy or similar instrument which has no cash value, and for which the individual receives no valuable consideration will be considered a transfer of assets if purchased within the five (5) year look back period.
5. To determine that an annuity is established under any of the various provisions of the Internal Revenue Code referenced above and/or meets all of the conditions required to be excluded from a transfer of assets penalty or counted as a resource, rely on verification from the financial institution, employer or employer association that issued the annuity. The burden of proof is on the individual or representative to produce needed documentation. The individual or representative must produce the annuity contract in order to evaluate the annuity. Without documentation, the purchase of an annuity will be considered a transfer of assets subject to a transfer penalty in the amount of the full purchase value of the annuity.
6. An annuity that does not meet the conditions cited above, or an annuity that is not changed to meet the necessary requirements and/or documentation that is not provided relating to an annuity will result in the annuity being treated as a transfer of assets if purchased within the five (5) year look back period using the full purchase value as the amount transferred.
7. Even if an annuity is determined to meet the requirements above and the purchase is not treated as a transfer, if the annuity or income stream from the annuity is transferred, that transfer may be subject to a penalty with the exception of transfers to a spouse or to another individual for the sole benefit of the spouse, to a minor or disabled child or to a Special Needs Trust.
8. Actuarial tables published by the Social Security Administration will be used to determine life expectancy in order to determine if the annuity is actuarially sound.

F. Consideration of Income from an Annuity

1. An annuity that does not comply with the requirements described in this chapter will be treated as a transfer of assets. During the penalty period, the income produced by the annuity counts as income to the individual or spouse, as appropriate, in determining eligibility and post-eligibility cost of care and spousal allocation, as applicable..
2. The income produced by an annuity that complies with the requirements in this chapter counts as income to the individual or spouse, as appropriate, in determining eligibility and post-eligibility cost of care and spousal allocation, as applicable.

G. Requirements for the Community Spouse

1. Annuities purchased by the Community Spouse on or after February 8, 2006, must name the Division of Medicaid as first beneficiary.

2. The Institutionalized Spouse may not be named as a beneficiary ahead of the Division of Medicaid.
3. However, if there is a minor or disabled child, the child may be named as primary and the Division of Medicaid as secondary.
4. It does not matter if the Community Spouse's annuity is actuarially sound or provides payments in approximately equal amounts with no deferred or balloon payments. These provisions apply only to annuities purchased by or on behalf of the individual who has applied for medical assistance, not a Community Spouse.

H. Estate Recovery

1. Annuities purchased on or after February 8, 2006, will be subject to Estate Recovery.
2. The rules for the Institutional Spouse and the Community Spouse are the same for annuities purchased prior to this date.

Source: Social Security Act §1917(d); Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 §6011 and §6016 (Rev. 2006).

History: Revised eff. 11/01/2014.

Rule 6.5: Determining Whether an Annuity (Purchased After 02/08/2006) is Actuarially Sound

A determination must be made on whether the purchase of annuities, other than qualifying IRS annuities, is treated as a transfer of assets for less than fair market value.

- A. If the expected return on the annuity is commensurate with a reasonable estimate of the life expectancy of the annuitant, the annuity can be deemed actuarially sound. The life expectancy tables published by the Office of the Actuary of the Security Administration are used.
- B. The average number of years of expected life remaining for the individual must coincide with the life of the annuity. If the individual is not reasonably expected to live longer than the guarantee period of the annuity, the individual will not receive fair market value of the annuity based on the projected return.
- C. If this is the case, the annuity is not actuarially sound and a transfer of assets for less than fair market value has taken place, subjecting the individual to a penalty.
- D. The penalty is assessed based on a transfer of assets that is considered to have occurred at the time the annuity was purchased, using the full purchase price as the amount transferred.

Source: Social Security Act §1917(c); Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 §6011 and §6016 (Rev. 2006).

History: Revised eff. 11/01/2014.

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A. Annuities – General (Applies Regardless of Purchase Date)

1. An annuity is defined as a contract or agreement by which one receives fixed, non-variable payments on an investment for a lifetime or a specified number of years.
 - a) An individual may buy an annuity by making payments over a period of time or purchase an immediate annuity by paying a lump sum to a bank or insurance company in return for regular payments of income in certain amounts.
 - b) When an annuity is “annuitized,” the investment is converted into periodic income payments.
 - c) These payments may continue for a fixed period of time or for as long as the individual or another beneficiary lives.
2. The annuitant is the person who will receive the payments during the term of the annuity. The annuity contract should identify the purchaser (owner) and the annuitant. The owner and the annuitant may or may not be the same; however, the policy described in this chapter applies to annuities purchased with the applicant’s or recipient’s own funds by the applicant/recipient, spouse, guardian or legal representative and which name the applicant/recipient or spouse as the annuitant.
3. An annuity may or may not include a remainder clause under which, if the annuitant dies, the contracting entity converts whatever is remaining in the annuity into a lump sum and pays it to a designated beneficiary.
4. Annuities, although usually purchased in order to provide a source of income for retirement, are occasionally used to shelter assets so that individuals purchasing them can be eligible for Medicaid. In order to avoid penalizing annuities validly purchased as part of a retirement plan but to capture those intended to shelter assets, a determination must be made with regard to the ultimate purpose of the annuity, i.e., whether or not it is part of a bona fide retirement plan.
5. Transfer of assets policy will be considered when an applicant or recipient’s own funds are used to purchase an annuity for someone other than the applicant/recipient or their spouse. Likewise, if the right to receive payment is assigned to someone other than the applicant/recipient, spouse or to a minor or disabled child of the applicant, a transfer of assets will be considered.

B. Revocable Annuities (Applies Regardless of Purchase Date)

1. An annuity that is revocable is a countable resource unless it can be excluded under another provision, such as an income-producing asset meeting the 6% of equity provision for annuities purchased prior to 02/08/2006. Some annuities which appear irrevocable may be revocable with a penalty, reducing the total value. Generally, an annuity is revocable until the time the annuity is annuitized. Verification is needed to make a determination.
2. An annuity is a countable resource if it can be sold, cashed in, surrendered or revoked. An annuity that can be revoked is valued at the amount the purchaser would receive if canceled.
3. An annuity is a countable resource if it can be assigned to a new owner or the payments transferred to someone else. If an annuity is assignable, it is valued at the amount the annuity can be sold on the secondary market.

C. Irrevocable Annuities (Applies Regardless of Purchase Date)

1. If an annuity cannot be revoked or cashed in and the annuity contract does not allow the annuitant to transfer ownership or payments to someone else, the annuity is not a countable resource, although it may be a transfer of assets if purchased within the five (5) year look back period as outlined in this chapter.
2. If periodic payments are not being made, the individual must take all steps necessary to receive periodic payments as outlined in this chapter. If periodic payments are denied but a lump sum payment is possible, the lump sum amount is a countable resource.

D. Payments Produced by Annuities (Applies Regardless of Purchase Date)

1. Annuity payments paid to the annuitant are countable income regardless of whether the annuity itself is countable as an asset or treated as a disqualifying transfer. Certain conditions apply to the frequency and amount of the payments required in order for an annuity to avoid being treated as a transfer of assets, as described within this chapter.

E. Non-Annuitized Annuity (or any portion thereof) (Applies Regardless of Purchase Date)

2. The equity value of an annuity that is not annuitized or any part of an annuity that is not annuitized is counted as a countable resource. Verification is needed to make a determination.

Source: Social Security Act §1917 (c) and (d); Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA-93) § 13611(Rev. 1993); Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 §6011 and §6016 (Rev. 2006).

History: Revised eff. 11/01/2014.

Rule 6.2: Treatment of Annuities Purchased prior to 2/8/2006.

- A. An annuity purchased before February 8, 2006, by or for an individual using that individual's assets will be considered a transfer of assets unless both of the following are met:
 - 1. The annuity produces a net annual return of at least 6% of its equity value; and
 - 2. Pays out principal and interest in equal monthly installments (no balloon payments) to the individual in sufficient amounts that the principal is paid out within the actuarial life expectancy of the individual seeking long term care services, including HCBS services.
- B. An annuity that meets the criteria above will be excluded as a resource and the income paid by the annuity counted as income to the annuitant.
- C. An annuity that does not meet the required conditions is a transfer of assets if purchased during the look back period ~~in effect at the time~~. The income produced by the annuity counts as income to the annuitant during the transfer penalty period and the full payment period of the annuity.

Source: Social Security Act §1917(d); Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA-93) § 13611(Rev. 1993).

History: Revised eff. 11/01/2014.

Rule 6.3: Calculating the Uncompensated Value of Annuities Purchased prior to 02/08/2006.

The transfer penalty period for the purchase of an annuity prior to 02/08/2006 is calculated based on the value of the payments that would be beyond the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant.

- A. Divide the purchase price of the annuity by the number of payout years. This equals the annual rate.
- B. Use the life expectancy tables published by the Office of the Actuary of the Social Security Administration to determine the number of years the individual is expected to live.
- C. Subtract the number of years from the number of payout years.
- D. Multiply the difference by the annual rate. This is the uncompensated value.

Source: Social Security Act §1917(c); Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA-93) § 13611(Rev. 1993).

History: Revised eff. 11/01/2014.

Rule 6.4: Treatment of Annuities Purchased on or after 2/8/2006.

~~New Requirements imposed by~~ The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA), P.L. 109-171 adds new requirements to the Medicaid statute with respect to the treatment of annuities purchased on or after the date of enactment, February 8, 2006, by or on behalf of an annuitant who has applied for Medicaid for nursing facility services or other long term care services. The DRA requirements also apply to certain other transactions involving annuities that take place on or after the date of enactment that are described below.

A. Disclosure Requirement

1. At each application and review for Medicaid, all long term care applicants are required to disclose any interest the applicant or community spouse may have in an annuity or similar financial instrument. Parents of a minor child must report any annuities in which the child may have an interest.
2. This disclosure is a condition for Medicaid eligibility for long-term care services, including nursing facility services and Home and Community-Based Waiver Services (HCBS) and applies regardless of whether or not an annuity is irrevocable or is treated as a resource.
3. Refusal to disclose sufficient information related to any annuity will result in denial or termination of Medicaid entirely, based on the applicant's failure to cooperate in accordance with existing Medicaid policies.
4. When an unreported annuity is discovered after eligibility has been established and after payment for long-term care services has been made, appropriate steps to terminate payment for long-term care services will be taken, including allowing for rebuttal and advance notice. In addition, an Improper Payment Report may be required to initiate recovery of incorrectly paid benefits.

B. Annuity-Related Transactions Other than Purchases Made on or after 2/8/2006

1. In addition to purchases of annuities, certain related transactions which occur to annuities on or after February 8, 2006, make an annuity, including one purchased before that date, subject to all provisions of the DRA that went into effect on 2/8/2006.
2. Any action taken on or after February 8, 2006, by the individual that changes the course of payment to be made by the annuity or the treatment of the income or principal of the annuity result in the annuity being treated as if purchased on or after 02/08/2006. These actions include:
 - a) Additions of principal,
 - b) Elective withdrawals,
 - c) Requests to change the distribution of the annuity, and

- d) Elections to annuitize the contract and similar actions.
- 3. For annuities purchased prior to February 8, 2006, routine changes and automatic events that do not require any action or decision after the effective date are not considered transactions that would subject the annuity to treatment under the DRA provisions. Routine changes could be notification of an address change or death or divorce of a remainder beneficiary and similar circumstances.
- 4. Changes which occur based on the terms of the annuity which existed prior to February 8, 2006, and which do not require a decision, election or action to take effect are also not subject to the DRA.

C. Requirement to Name the State as Remainder Beneficiary on Annuities

- 1. The purchase of an annuity within the five (5) year look back period will be treated as a transfer of assets unless the Mississippi Division of Medicaid is named as a remainder beneficiary in the correct position as described herein.
 - a) This requirement applies to annuities purchased by the applicant or spouse and to certain annuity-related transactions other than purchases made by the applicant or spouse.
 - b) An annuity must name the Division of Medicaid as the remainder beneficiary in the first position for the total amount of Medicaid assistance paid on behalf of the institutionalized individual who is the annuitant unless there is a community spouse and/or a minor or disabled child.
 - c) If there is a community spouse and/or minor or disabled child, the Division of Medicaid may be named in the next position after those individuals.
 - e) If DOM is named beneficiary after a community spouse and/or minor or disabled child, and any of those individuals or their representatives dispose of any of the remainder of the annuity for less than fair market value, the Division of Medicaid may then be named in the first position.
 - f) If verification is not provided which reflects the Division of Medicaid as remainder beneficiary in the correct position on annuities purchased by the institutionalized spouse or community spouse, the purchase of the annuity will be considered a transfer for less than fair market value. The full purchase value of the annuity will be considered the amount transferred.
- 2. An annuity purchased prior to the five (5) year look back period is treated as a resource and/or income source, depending on the terms of the annuity as outlined in Rule 6.1.

D. Information Provided by Agency to Issuer

1. For any annuity disclosed for the applicant or community spouse, the Division of Medicaid must inform the issuer of the annuity of the agency's right to be named as a preferred remainder beneficiary and may require the issuer to notify the agency regarding any changes in amount of income or principal being withdrawn from the annuity.
2. The issuer of the annuity may disclose information about the Division of Medicaid's position as remainder beneficiary to others who have a remainder interest in the annuity.

E. Treatment of Annuities in Determining Eligibility

1. In addition to the requirement for DOM to be named as a remainder beneficiary, an annuity purchased by or on behalf of an annuitant who has applied for medical assistance with respect to nursing facility or other long-term care services will not be treated as a transfer of assets if purchased within the five (5) year look back period or counted as a resource if certain conditions are met which are described below.
2. The annuity meets one of the following conditions:
 - a) It is an individual retirement annuity according to (b) or (q) of section 408 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC), or,
 - b) The annuity is purchased with proceeds from an account or trust described in subsection (a), (c) or (p) of section 408 of the IRC, or,
 - c) The annuity is purchased with proceeds from a simplified employee pension within the meaning of section 408 of the IRC, or,
 - d) The annuity is purchased with the proceeds from a Roth IRA described in section 408A of the IRC.
3. The purchase of an annuity not described in F.2. above will be considered a transfer of assets unless it meets all of the following requirements for every month in which eligibility is being considered:
 - a) The annuity is irrevocable and non-assignable; and,
 - b) The annuity is actuarially sound, meaning it will return the full investment including principal and interest within the annuitant's life expectancy as outlined in Rule 6.5.
 - c) The annuity is providing payments in approximately equal amounts of principal and interest with no deferred or balloon payments; and,
 - d) The annuity is issued by a business licensed and approved to issue commercial annuities in the state in which the annuity was purchased.

4. The purchase of a single-premium life insurance policy, endowment policy or similar instrument which has no cash value, and for which the individual receives no valuable consideration will be considered a transfer of assets if purchased within the five (5) year look back period.
5. To determine that an annuity is established under any of the various provisions of the Internal Revenue Code referenced above and/or meets all of the conditions required to be excluded from a transfer of assets penalty or counted as a resource, rely on verification from the financial institution, employer or employer association that issued the annuity. The burden of proof is on the individual or representative to produce needed documentation. The individual or representative must produce the annuity contract in order to evaluate the annuity. Without documentation, the purchase of an annuity will be considered a transfer of assets subject to a transfer penalty in the amount of the full purchase value of the annuity.
6. An annuity that does not meet the conditions cited above, or an annuity that is not changed to meet the necessary requirements and/or documentation that is not provided relating to an annuity will result in the annuity being treated as a transfer of assets if purchased within the five (5) year look back period using the full purchase value as the amount transferred.
7. Even if an annuity is determined to meet the requirements above and the purchase is not treated as a transfer, if the annuity or income stream from the annuity is transferred, that transfer may be subject to a penalty with the exception of transfers to a spouse or to another individual for the sole benefit of the spouse, to a minor or disabled child or to a Special Needs Trust.
8. Actuarial tables published by the Social Security Administration will be used to determine life expectancy in order to determine if the annuity is actuarially sound.

F. Consideration of Income ~~and Resources~~ from an Annuity

1. An annuity that does not comply with the requirements described in this chapter will be treated as a transfer of assets. During the penalty period, the income produced by the annuity counts as income to the individual or spouse, as appropriate, in determining eligibility and post-eligibility cost of care and spousal allocation, as applicable..
2. The income produced by an annuity that complies with the requirements in this chapter counts as income to the individual or spouse, as appropriate, in determining eligibility and post-eligibility cost of care and spousal allocation, as applicable.

G. Requirements for the Community Spouse

1. Annuities purchased by the Community Spouse on or after February 8, 2006, must name the Division of Medicaid as first beneficiary.

2. The Institutionalized Spouse may not be named as a beneficiary ahead of the Division of Medicaid.
3. However, if there is a minor or disabled child, the child may be named as primary and the Division of Medicaid as secondary.
4. It does not matter if the Community Spouse's annuity is actuarially sound or provides payments in approximately equal amounts with no deferred or balloon payments. These provisions apply only to annuities purchased by or on behalf of the individual who has applied for medical assistance, not a Community Spouse.

H. Estate Recovery

1. Annuities purchased on or after February 8, 2006, will be subject to Estate Recovery.
2. The rules for the Institutional Spouse and the Community Spouse are the same for annuities purchased prior to this date.

Source: Social Security Act §1917(d); Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 §6011 and §6016 (Rev. 2006).

History: Revised eff. 11/01/2014.

Rule 6.5: Determining Whether an Annuity (Purchased After 02/08/2006) is Actuarially Sound

A determination must be made on whether the purchase of annuities, other than qualifying IRS annuities, is treated as a transfer of assets for less than fair market value.

- A. If the expected return on the annuity is commensurate with a reasonable estimate of the life expectancy of the annuitant, the annuity can be deemed actuarially sound. The life expectancy tables published by the Office of the Actuary of the Security Administration are used.
- B. The average number of years of expected life remaining for the individual must coincide with the life of the annuity. If the individual is not reasonably expected to live longer than the guarantee period of the annuity, the individual will not receive fair market value of the annuity based on the projected return.
- C. If this is the case, the annuity is not actuarially sound and a transfer of assets for less than fair market value has taken place, subjecting the individual to a penalty.
- D. The penalty is assessed based on a transfer of assets that is considered to have occurred at the time the annuity was purchased, using the full purchase price as the amount transferred.

Source: Social Security Act §1917(c); Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 §6011 and §6016 (Rev. 2006).

History: Revised eff. 11/01/2014.