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## Chapter 9: Special Needs Benefit

### (vii) Seniors Supplement

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<b>Intent:</b>	To provide an additional amount to applicants and recipients who are over age 65 and eligible for Income Support benefits.
<b>Act:</b> (if applicable)	N/A
<b>Regulations:</b>	<p><b>Other income support</b></p> <p><b>19.</b> (1) Other monthly income support for which an applicant or recipient may be eligible is:</p> <p>(f) an amount of \$105 for each applicant or recipient who is 65 years of age or older and eligible for income support except where within 2 months following</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(i) the date of the applicant's application, the applicant will no longer be eligible for income support, or</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(ii) the recipient's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, the recipient will no longer be eligible for income support;</p>
<b>Overview:</b> (if applicable)	N/A
<b>Policy:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An amount of \$105 is provided to each applicant and recipient age 65 and over who will continue to be eligible for Income Support benefits in the second month after their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.</li> </ul>
<b>Procedure:</b>	<p>Client Services Officers (CSO) must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify that the applicant or recipient is eligible for Income Support past the first month after their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, which is the allowable overlap period for Income Support and Federal Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement (OAS/GIS) benefits. This would normally only occur if an applicant or recipient is not eligible for or receives a reduced rate of OAS/GIS. (E.g. an individual who has not yet lived in Canada for 10 years would not be eligible for OAS/GIS; or an individual who has a federal overpayment and has their OAS/GIS garnished.)</li> <li>• Complete a reassessment to add the Seniors Supplement for the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month in which a recipient turns 65 years old. This</li> </ul>

would apply only to recipients who have not yet been in Canada for 10 years and therefore have no eligibility for OAS/GIS.

- Ensure that applicants or recipients who have garnishments from their federal benefits contact Service Canada to request that the garnishment be reduced. These applicants or recipients are required to complete the Authorization to Communicate Information Form for OAS, so that the CSO can contact Service Canada to verify benefit amounts and garnishments.
- Add the Seniors Supplement requirement and retroactively pay the benefit to any applicants or recipients who are determined to be eligible for Income Support two months after their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. Retroactive payments would only apply from the month the recipient turned 65 or from an applicant's date of application.
- Monitor all files of recipients who remain in pay after age 65 to ensure that Income Support eligibility criteria continues to be met. This includes regular review of any ongoing OAS/GIS amounts for possible increases and ensuring that applications for OAS/GIS are completed once the 10 year residency requirement is met.

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**Authority Level:** Client Services Officer

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