

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Deputy Director-Medicaid

Transmittal # 20-17

TO: All DC Medicaid Nursing Home Providers

FROM: Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: April 22, 2020

SUBJECT: **Temporary Enhanced Reimbursement Rates for District Nursing Homes Due to COVID-19**

Purpose

The purpose of this transmittal is to notify Nursing Home providers participating in the District's Medicaid program of the temporary enhanced reimbursement rates during the pendency of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) period¹. The Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) is requesting a Medicaid Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). State Medicaid agencies may seek to implement the policies and procedures which are different than the policies and procedures otherwise applied under the Medicaid state plan, during the period of the Presidential and Secretarial emergency declarations related to the COVID-19 outbreak (or any renewals thereof), or for any shorter period². The enhanced reimbursement rates are twenty percent (20%) increases to the fiscal year 2020 nursing facility case-mix neutral base rates. These enhanced reimbursement rates are temporary and effective for services provided and claims submitted beginning March 11, 2020 and sunseting at the end of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE).

Background

DHCF is implementing an enhanced reimbursement rate to enable nursing homes to address worker shortages, overtime pay, and cover increased expenses for screening, personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, and other costs incurred during the period of the PHE.

Enhanced Reimbursement Rates

Specifically, DHCF is providing temporary enhanced reimbursement rates, which inflate the current FY 2020 nursing facility case-mix neutral base rate by twenty percent (20%). The twenty percent (20%) increase will **not apply to the add on payments for vents, bariatric patients and**

¹ The Public Health Emergency period, for purposes of the information contained in this Transmittal, is from March 1, 2020, through the termination of the PHE, as determined by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including any extensions.

² On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a proclamation that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency by the authorities vested in him by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and consistent with section 1135 of the Social Security Act (Act). On March 13, 2020, pursuant to section 1135(b) of the Act, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services invoked his authority to waive or modify certain requirements of titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Act as a result of the consequences COVID-19 pandemic, to the extent necessary, as determined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

behaviorally complex care services. Consequently, the rates for those add-on services and billing HIPPS codes remain the same and are listed below:

- o 0410 (for vent care) - billable at \$380/day
- o 0229 (for bariatric care) - billable at \$43.50/day
- o 0919 (for behaviorally complex care)- billable at \$86.50/day

Nursing homes will be issued rate letters letting them know of the twenty percent (20%) enhanced reimbursement rates and varying RUG grouper rates. Overall, there will be no changes to the billing process or documentation required. Furthermore, all other reimbursement policies, particularly as it relates to unallowable costs, will remain in effect.

Effective Period of the Enhanced Rates

The enhanced rates will be effective for services rendered from March 11, 2020, through the end of the federal PHE.

Claims Processing/Recycling

DHCF will recycle all nursing home claims no later than May 2020. The retroactive recycling of claims will be applied to all claims with a first date of service within the enhanced rate effective period and with a valid Medicaid RUG-IV code and HIPPS code.

Contact

DHCF will continue to provide updates to this information as appropriate. If you have questions, please contact Andrea Clark, Reimbursement Analyst, Office of Rates & Reimbursements, at Andrea.Clark@dc.gov or 202-724-4096.

Cc: DC Hospital Association
DC Primary Care Association
DC Health Care Association
DC Home Health Association
DC Behavioral Health Association
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers