

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director/Medicaid Director

TO: All DC Medicaid Providers

Transmittal # 20-19 (rev. #2)

FROM: Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: May 11, 2020

SUBJECT: **Updates to the Temporary Enhanced Reimbursement Rates for Home Health Agencies and Adult Day Health Programs Services Due to COVID-19**

Purpose

This transmittal supersedes Transmittal # 20-19: Temporary Enhanced Reimbursement Rates for HHA and ADHP Services Due to COVID-19, issued on April 30, 2020. This revision adds a temporary enhanced rate for skilled nursing, Private Duty Nursing (PDN), and home health aide services to the temporary enhanced reimbursement rates applicable/allowable to Home Health Agency (HHA) and Adult Day Health Program (ADHP) services during the pendency of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) period¹. The reimbursement rate changes are temporary and effective for dates of services beginning March 11, 2020 and sunseting at the end of the federal Public Health Emergency.

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.

DHCF also submitted an Appendix K waiver to CMS on April 8, 2020. An Appendix K is a standalone appendix that may be utilized by states during emergency situations to request temporary amendments to approved Medicaid home-and community-based services Section 1915(c) waivers. The Appendix K includes actions that Medicaid agencies can take under the existing Section 1915(c) home and community-based waiver authority in order to respond to an

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.

emergency. On April 17, 2020, CMS approved the District's Appendix K emergency preparedness response plans in response to COVID-19.

Background

DHCF is making the following temporary reimbursement rate enhancements to support providers that are being impacted by the PHE:

1. Temporarily enhanced reimbursement rates for overtime hours worked by personal care aides (PCAs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), and registered nurses (RNs) for home health aide and PDN services.
2. Temporarily enhanced reimbursement rates for PCA, skilled nursing, PDN and home health aide services provided to a medically quarantined beneficiary.
3. Temporarily enhanced reimbursement for home health aide, skilled nursing and PDN service hours worked/costs incurred in utilizing contract staff through a staffing agency to meet workforce shortage challenges.
4. Temporarily adjusted reimbursement for ADHP providers that provide services remotely versus in an in-person setting.
5. Temporary retainer payments to ADHP providers that cease business operations to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Enhanced Billing & Reimbursement

The temporary enhanced reimbursement rates, procedure codes, and modifiers are outlined in the separate tables below for PCA, skilled nursing, PDN, home health aide and ADHP services. To receive the enhanced reimbursement rates, providers must submit claims with the correct procedure codes and modifier combinations outlined in Table A.

Table A

Service Description	Procedure Code	Overtime Modifier	Overtime Rate	Quarantined Modifier	Quarantined Rate	Quarantined Overtime Modifier	Quarantined Overtime Rate
PCA - State Plan Services per 15 Min	T1019	CR	\$32.00 per hour, \$8.00 per 15 minutes	CR-U1	\$32.00 per hour, \$8.00 per 15 minutes	CR-U2	\$48.00 per hour, \$12.00 per 15 minutes
PCA - EPD Waiver Services per 15 Min	T1019	CR	\$32.00 per hour, \$8.00 per 15 minutes	CR-U1	\$32.00 per hour, \$8.00 per 15 minutes	CR-U2	\$48.00 per hour, \$12.00 per 15 minutes
Skilled Nursing (RN) Visit	G0299	TD-CR	\$90.00 per hour, \$22.5 per 15 minutes	TD-CR	\$90.00 per hour, \$22.5 per 15 minutes	CR-U1	\$135.00 per hour, \$33.75 per 15 minutes

Skilled Nursing (LPN) Visit	G0300	TE-CR	\$75.00 Per Hour, \$18.75 per 15 minutes	TE-CR	\$75.00 Per Hour, \$18.75 per 15 minutes	CR-U1	\$112.50 Per Hour, \$28.12 per 15 minutes
Private Duty (RN) Visit	T1000	TD-CR	\$90.00 per hour, \$22.5 per 15 minutes	TD-CR	\$90.00 per hour, \$22.5 per 15 minutes	TD-CR-U1	\$135.00 per hour, \$33.75 per 15 minutes
Private Duty (LPN) Visit	T1000	TE-CR	\$75.00 Per Hour, \$18.75 per 15 minutes	TE-CR	\$75.00 Per Hour, \$18.75 per 15 minutes	TE-CR-U1	\$112.50 Per Hour, \$28.12 per 15 minutes
Home Health Aide	T1004	N/A	N/A	CR-U1	\$32.00 per hour, \$8.00 per 15 minutes	N/A	N/A

Overtime or quarantine-related procedure code/procedure code modifier combinations require prior authorizations. These will be issued by DHCF directly or through an amendment of a waiver beneficiary's person-centered care plan and issued by DHCF's quality improvement organization.

The enhanced reimbursement for HHA and PDN providers with contract staff will require the providers to submit the staffing agency's NPI in the "Other NPI 1" section and the aide's NPI in the "Other NPI 2" on the original claim. Subsequently, the providers will submit an invoice to DHCF, including the claims impacted, the Prior Authorization number, the amount due and the billing invoice from the staffing agency utilized. DHCF will review and validate the information before the enhanced reimbursement is issued within a reasonable period.

ADHP

Service Description	Procedure Code	Remote Services Modifier	Remote Services Rate	Retainer Rate Modifier	Retainer Rate
ADHP - State Plan Service	S5100	CR	\$102.00 daily per diem	NA	\$34.00 daily per diem
ADHP - EPD Waiver	S5100	CR	\$102.00 daily per diem	NA	\$34.00 daily per diem

The remote services rate listed in the above table should be used to bill for any date of service on which an ADHP conducts a telephonic or other remote wellness visit, at minimum. The retainer rate in the above table should be used by ADHPs that have ceased business operations and for

dates of service on which no other ADHP billing can be made, not to exceed 18 consecutive weekdays. Retainer payments will be facilitated through a financial transaction payment process. Under this process, the ADHPs will be required to submit documentation and an attestation that enables DHCF to verify and justify the retainer payment. The retainer payment shall be paid on a monthly basis after all claims for the month have been submitted.

In the event an ADHP renders a remote wellness check *in addition* to another remote ADHP service, to include remote nursing or counseling services, remote individual or group therapy services, or meal delivery, the ADHP should bill without the CR modifier and indicate Place of Service code 02 (telehealth) to bill at the full per diem rate.

For more detailed information about the above enhanced rates, please consult the updated **COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE): Home and Community-Based Services Billing and Documentation Guidelines for Services Delivered Under Temporary Policy & Procedural Arrangements**. The most current version of the guidelines can be found on the [Informational Bulletins for LTC Providers](#) webpage.

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
Medical Society of DC