

PROVIDER BULLETIN

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HOSPICE

• HOSPICE NURSING HOME ROOM AND BOARD

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MO HealthNet eligible individuals who reside in MO HealthNet certified nursing facilities and who meet the hospice eligibility criteria may elect MO HealthNet hospice care services. In addition to the routine home care or continuous home care per diem rates, an amount may be paid to the hospice to cover the nursing home room and board costs.

MO HealthNet reimbursement for hospice nursing home room and board is based on the MO HealthNet reimbursement for nursing facilities. During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019, there were multiple nursing facility rate changes. Following is a summary of the rate changes, including the effective date for each rate change, the amount of the rate change, and when the rate change was implemented in MO HealthNet's Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS or system):

- July 1, 2018 – Nursing facilities received a \$0.54 per diem rate increase as a carry-over from a SFY 2018 rate adjustment. This rate change was implemented in MO HealthNet's system by July 1, 2018.
- July 1, 2018 – Nursing facilities received a \$7.76 per diem rate increase, as appropriated in the SFY 2019 budget. This rate change was implemented in MO HealthNet's system in December 2018, after it was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- July 1, 2018 – Nursing facility per diem rates will be decreased by \$0.47 related to an adjustment in the Nursing Facility Reimbursement Allowance (NFRA) assessment. This rate change will be implemented in MO HealthNet's system in May 2019.
- February 1, 2019 - Nursing facilities received a \$1.29 per diem rate increase, as appropriated in the SFY 2019 supplemental budget. This rate change was recently approved by CMS and will be implemented in MO HealthNet's system in May 2019.
- July 1, 2019 – The \$1.29 rate increase effective February 1, 2019 will be reduced to \$0.54 (i.e., there will be a \$0.75 decrease in the rate) to annualize the funds appropriated in the SFY 2019 supplemental budget over 12 months going forward

beginning in SFY 2020 rather than the 5 months that was remaining to expend the funds in SFY 2019.

- The impact of all these changes is approximately \$5.3 million annually. This estimate may vary depending on actual utilization.

Hospice Nursing Home Room and Board reimbursement is affected by all of these rate changes and since not all of the rate changes were implemented prior to the effective dates, hospice claims may not have been paid at the final adjusted rate. All of these rate changes will be implemented in MO HealthNet's system by May 2019 and the MO HealthNet Division will process a mass adjustment in June 2019 to reprocess all affected hospice claims to be paid at the final adjusted rate. Hospice providers will not need to submit claim adjustment forms associated with this change.

Provider Bulletins are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

MO HealthNet News: Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via E-mail.

The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service

Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping the MO HealthNet card or by calling the Provider Communications Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-751-2896 and using Option One for the MO HealthNet ID card.

**Provider Communications Hotline
573-751-2896**