

PROVIDER BULLETIN

Volume 42 Number 34

<http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/>

March 19, 2020

NURSING FACILITY AND HOSPICE

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2019

APPLIES TO: Nursing Facilities and Hospice Providers

- **NURSING FACILITY RATE INCREASE – SFY 2020**
- **HOSPICE NURSING HOME ROOM AND BOARD RATE INCREASE – SFY 2020**

NURSING FACILITY PER DIEM RATE INCREASE – SFY 2020

The MO HealthNet Division (MHD) recently implemented a change in nursing facility per diem rates corresponding to the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020 budget after the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the reimbursement change. Following is a summary of the rate change:

- Effective for dates of service beginning August 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, nursing facilities received a \$1.61 per diem rate increase. The MHD entered the new rates into the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS or system) on January 22, 2020. Claims submitted after that date will be processed at the new rate. The MHD processed a mass adjustment for claims submitted prior to January 23, 2020, which were processed at the old rate, to reflect the rate increase. This will eliminate the need for nursing facilities to submit adjustment forms for each resident for dates of service beginning August 1, 2019. The mass adjustment was processed on the February 7, 2020 remittance advice, which was reflected on the February 19, 2020 check.
- Effective for dates of service beginning July 1, 2020, the \$1.61 rate increase effective August 1, 2019 will be reduced to \$1.49 (i.e., there will be a \$0.12 decrease in the rate). The rate is being reduced to expend the funds appropriated in the SFY 2020 budget over 12 months going forward, beginning in SFY 2021, rather than over 11 months as was done in SFY 2020.
- The impact of the rate change for nursing facilities is approximately \$12.9 million annually. This estimate may vary depending on actual utilization.
- The MHD sent individual rate letters to nursing facilities on February 13, 2020.
- The MHD updated the Nursing Facility Rate List on its website on February 27, 2020 to reflect the rate change. The Nursing Facility Rate List is available at the following link: <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/nfrates.htm>

HOSPICE NURSING HOME ROOM AND BOARD RATE INCREASE – SFY 2020

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 nursing home room and board costs.

Changes to the nursing facility per diem rate affect reimbursement for hospice nursing home room and board services because reimbursement for hospice nursing home room and board is based on the MO HealthNet reimbursement for nursing facilities. Please see the section above titled “Nursing Facility Per Diem Rate Increase – SFY 2020” for additional details on the change to the nursing facility per diem rate.

The MHD also processed a mass adjustment for hospice nursing home room and board claims submitted prior to January 23, 2020, which were processed at the old rate, to reflect the rate increase. This will eliminate the need to submit adjustment forms for each resident for dates of service beginning August 1, 2019. The mass adjustment was processed on the February 7, 2020 remittance advice, which was reflected on the February 19, 2020 check.

The impact of the rate change for hospice nursing home room and board is approximately \$1.4 million annually. This estimate may vary depending on actual utilization.

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**