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Administrative Bulletin 20-35

101 CMR 359.00: Rates for Home and Community Based Services Waivers

Rate Adjustment Applicable to Certain Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) and Moving Forward Plan (MFP) Waiver Services to Address Costs Associated with Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Effective April 23, 2020

Purpose, Scope and Effective Period

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is issuing this administrative bulletin pursuant to the authority of [COVID-19 Order No. 20: Order Authorizing the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to Adjust Essential Provider Rates During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) and [Executive Order 591: Declaration of State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19](#). In light of the state of emergency declared in the Commonwealth due to COVID-19, EOHHS, which administers the Massachusetts Medicaid program known as “MassHealth,” is temporarily adjusting rates for certain MassHealth covered Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) and Moving Forward Plan (MFP) Waiver services for which rates are established in 101 CMR 359.00: *Rates for Home and Community Based Services Waivers*, as further described in this bulletin. If a rate is not being updated pursuant to this administrative bulletin, the rate remains at the currently established rate.

This administrative bulletin is effective as of April 23, 2020, and shall apply to dates of service April 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020.

Disclaimer: This administrative bulletin is not authorization for a provider’s use of the adjusted rate or service. Authorization for the provision of, and billing and payment for, ABI and MFP Waiver services are pursuant to the MassHealth Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver regulations at 130 CMR 630.000.

Background

The COVID-19 public health emergency has unexpectedly increased the need for certain Home and Community Based Services and has also made the delivery of these service more difficult and costly. Existing service rates do not contemplate these increased costs and changes in



utilization patterns. Additionally, the COVID-19 public health emergency has also forced certain Home and Community Based Services providers of day programs to modify both the manner in which they deliver services and the hours and scope of these services. These changes in modality are not contemplated in the current rate methodologies and structures for these services. Accordingly, EOHHS is establishing adjusted rates as described below that address the on-going fixed costs, retention of staff and the changes in service modalities related to COVID-19 and to ensure the continued delivery of these critical services.

Adjusted Rates for Certain ABI and MFP Waiver Services to Address Costs Associated with COVID-19

Service Description	Code	Modifier	Agency Rate	Individual Provider Rate	Unit
Personal care services	T1019	U4-UC U8-UC	\$6.89*	-	15 minutes
Personal care services	T1019	U8-UC U8-UC	-	\$4.75	15 minutes
Home Health Aide	G0156	U8-UC	\$7.57*	-	15 minutes
Supportive Home Care Aide	T1004	U8-UC	\$8.18	-	15 minutes
Skilled Nursing – RN	G0299	U8-UC U9-UC	\$98.13	-	Per Visit
Skilled Nursing - LPN	G0300	U8-UC U9-UC	\$98.13	-	Per Visit
Occupational Therapy	S9129	U4-UC U5-UC U8-UC U9-UC	\$78.32	-	Per Visit
Physical Therapy	S9131	U4-UC U5-UC U8-UC U9-UC	\$75.13	-	Per Visit
Speech Therapy	S9128	U4-UC U5-UC U8-UC U9-UC	\$80.17	-	Per Visit

Service Description	Code	Modifier	Agency Rate	Individual Provider Rate	Unit
Residential Habilitation	T2016	U5-UC U9-UC	Rate established under 101 CMR 420.00: <i>Rates for Adult Long-term Residential Services + 10%</i>	-	Per Diem
Shared Living – 24 Hour Supports	T2033	U5-UC U9-UC	Rate established under 101 CMR 411.00: <i>Rates for Certain Placement, Support, and Shared Living Services + 10%</i>	-	Per Diem

*Includes annualized add-on that is effective April 1 – June 30, 2020, pursuant to FY19 supplemental budget language.

Public Comment

EOHHS will accept comments on the rate established via this bulletin through May 7, 2020.

Individuals may submit written comments by emailing: ehs-regulations@state.ma.us. Please submit written comments as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the email with the name of this bulletin in the subject line. All submissions of comments must include the sender’s full name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Individuals who are unable to submit comments by email may mail written comments to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.

EOHHS may adopt a revised version of this bulletin taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.