

PUBLISHED: November 20, 2017

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN STATEWIDE METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR SETTING PAYMENT RATES**

**SUBJECT:** MassHealth: Rates for MassHealth Home Health Services

**AGENCY:** Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services

**SUMMARY:** Rate Changes for Continuous Skilled Nursing Home Health Services Effective February 23, 2018, and April 1, 2018

**DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES**

Described below are changes to the rates for continuous skilled nursing home health services under the MassHealth program. These changes are being made in accordance with M.G.L. c. 118E, section 13D, which requires the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health Human Services to establish, by regulation, rates for health care services, including home health services.

The following rate change is effective February 23, 2018.

An updated rate for Continuous Skilled Nursing (CSN) services provided by independent nurses and home health agencies. This change will increase the rates for CSN services by 3.88%. This increase is in addition to the 2.6% increase that was recently added effective January 1, 2017, and the 2.25% increase effective July 14, 2017.

The following rate change is effective April 1, 2018.

An updated rate for CSN services provided by home health agencies to account for workforce development costs borne by home health agencies in the provision of CSN services, including nurse training labs, nurse recruitment and other measures aimed at increasing CSN nurse retention. This change will increase the rates for CSN services provided by home health agencies by 7.4% over the increase effective February 23, 2018.

It is estimated that annual aggregate state expenditures will increase by \$11.0 million as a result of these changes. The actual change in annualized expenditures may vary depending on actual utilization of services.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR WRITTEN COMMENT**

A public hearing about the above described proposed rate changes to be established under 101 CMR 350.00, will be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, 100 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA. Individuals who notify EOHHS of their intent to testify at the hearing will be afforded an earlier opportunity to speak. Speakers may notify EOHHS of their intention to testify at the hearing by registering online at [www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/laws-regs/hhs/public-hearings.html](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/laws-regs/hhs/public-hearings.html). Individuals may also submit written testimony by emailing [ehs-regulations@state.ma.us](mailto:ehs-regulations@state.ma.us). Please submit electronic testimony as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the email with the name of the regulation, 101 CMR 350.00, in the subject line. All submissions must include the

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sender's full name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Individuals who are unable to submit testimony by email should mail written testimony to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. Written testimony must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20, 2017.

All persons desiring to review the current draft of the proposed regulatory actions may go to [www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/laws-regs/hhs/public-hearings.html](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/laws-regs/hhs/public-hearings.html) or request a copy in writing or in person from MassHealth Publications, 100 Hancock Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.