

PUBLISHED: June 30, 2016

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

SUBJECT: MassHealth: Rates for MassHealth Personal Care Attendant Services

AGENCY: Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services

SUMMARY: MassHealth Proposed Rate Changes for Personal Care Attendant Services
Effective July 1, 2016.

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES:

The following proposed rate increases have a proposed effective date of July 1, 2016. The rate for personal care attendant (PCA) services is increased from \$3.88 per 15-minute unit, or \$15.52 per hour, to \$4.00 per 15-minute unit, or \$16.00 per hour. The premium pay add-on rate for PCAs authorized by MassHealth to work overtime or to work on one of four holidays (January 1st, July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, or December 25th) is increased from \$1.94 per 15-minute unit, or \$7.76 per hour, to \$2.00 per 15-minute unit, or \$8.00 per hour. The add-on rate for PCAs eligible to receive nonemergency overtime pay is increased from \$0.13 per one-minute unit, or \$7.76 per hour, to \$0.14 per one-minute unit, or \$8.00 per hour. The rate for PCAs eligible to receive travel time pay is increased from \$0.26 per one-minute unit, or \$15.52 per hour, to \$0.27 per one-minute unit, or \$16.00 per hour. The rate for PCAs eligible to receive paid earned sick leave is increased from \$3.88 per 15-minute unit, or \$15.52 per hour, to \$4.00 per 15-minute unit, or \$16.00 per hour. The rate for PCAs eligible for new hire orientation is increased from \$46.56 per diem to \$48.00 per diem. The proposed rates noted above include the PCA wage, employer required taxes, and workers' compensation insurance. The proposed increase in rates is pursuant to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement negotiated between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the PCA union (1199SEIU) and is in accordance with 101 CMR 309.00: *Independent Living Services for the Personal Care Attendant Program*. The increase in rates is subject to the ratification of the collective bargaining agreement. It is estimated that annual aggregate state expenditures will increase by \$20 million as a result of these changes. The actual change in annualized expenditures may vary depending on actual utilization of services.

Individuals may submit written comments by e-mailing ehs-regulations@state.ma.us. Please submit electronic comments as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the e-mail with the phrase "MassHealth Changes in Rates for Personal Care Attendant Services" in the subject line. All submissions must include the sender's full name and address. Individuals who are unable to submit comments by e-mail should mail written comments to EOHHS, c/o Debby Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.

Please contact Erin Dore, One Ashburton Place, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02108, or by e-mail at Erin.Dore@state.ma.us to request a copy of any notices or any written comments concerning the matters described herein.