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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, 2019.

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES: The following are proposed changes to rates for personal care attendant (PCA) services effective on July 1, 2019.

Service Name or Description	Old Rate (effective July 1, 2018, for reference)		Rate Effective July 1, 2019	
	Per unit	Per hour	Per unit	Per hour
PCA services	\$4.25 15 min	\$17.00	\$4.36 15 min	\$17.45
Add-on for Premium Pay for Overtime and Holidays ¹	\$2.13 15 min	\$8.50	\$2.18 15 min	\$8.73
Earned Sick Time	\$4.25 15 min	\$17.00	N/A	N/A
Earned Paid Time	N/A	N/A	\$4.36 15 min	\$17.45
New Hire Orientation	\$51.00 per diem	\$17.00	\$52.36 per diem	\$17.45
Add-on for Overtime	\$0.15 1 min	\$8.50	\$0.15 1 min	\$8.73
Travel Time	\$0.28 1 min	\$17.00	\$0.29 1 min	\$17.45

The proposed rates noted above include the PCA wage and the employer expense component, which includes 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 in accordance with 101 CMR 309.00: *Rates for Certain Services for the Personal Care Attendant Program*.

¹ Holidays: January 1, July 4, Thanksgiving day, December 25

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Effective July 1, 2019, PCAs are able to accrue up to 50 hours of paid earned time in a benefit year at a rate of one hour per 30 hours worked rather than 40 hours of earned sick time in a benefit year at that accrual rate. PCAs can begin using paid earned time 90 days after the first date of work at the PCA services hourly rate. Upon termination of all PCA employment, a PCA's remaining accrued paid earned time will be paid out at the PCA rate.

The estimated annual aggregate state expenditures as a result of the above changes to PCA rates effective July 1, 2019, is \$28,866,347.

Individuals may submit written comments, or request a copy of any notices or written comments, concerning the matters herein 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 or request a copy of any notices or written copies by e-mail should send written comments or requests by mail to EOHHS, c/o Debby Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.