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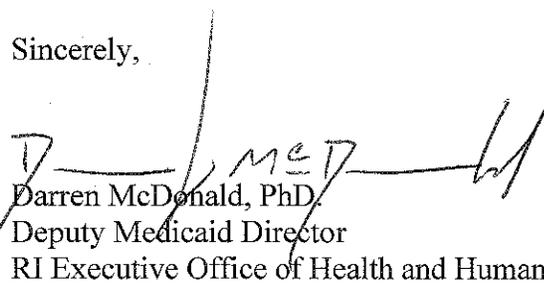
December 13, 2016

Dear Home Care Provider:

Please see the enclosed information on the EOHHS Personal Care Attendants and Home Health Aides Wage Pass through program.

We appreciate your assistance in implementing this program. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Darren McDonald, PhD.
Deputy Medicaid Director
RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services

EOHHS Personal Care Attendants and Home Health Aides Wage Pass through Program
Instructions for Providers

The FY 2017 Enacted Budget designates \$4,000,090 to increase wages currently paid to personal care attendants and home health aides employed by homecare provider agencies and RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services contracted Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), including Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island and UnitedHealthCare of New England. In particular, the following base codes: S5125, S5125 U1, and S5130 will be increased by 7.5% for Medicaid Fee for Service payments. The MCOs will increase equivalent codes by 7.5%.

RI State legislation calls for wage increases to direct support staff in recognition that these rates have not been increased for a long period of time, which makes it difficult for agencies to meet the system transformation goals. To effectuate these increases, EOHHS is changing the rates paid to home healthcare agencies retroactively, for all services rendered in the specified codes on or after October 1, 2016. In addition, the MCOs will also adjust their rates, at the direction of the EOHHS. An additional communication will be provided with instructions relating to the implementation for MCO rates.

Required Disbursement of Rate Increases:

In accordance with enacted legislation requiring the increase of rates to support personal care attendants and home health aides, EOHHS requires that each agency provide the entirety of the difference between old rates and new rates as raises to staff, less associated payroll costs (fringe). Although EOHHS is requiring that these resources be applied to specified staff raises, providers are afforded flexibility to apply these raises in the manner they deem most appropriate.

Required Documentation from Providers:

In order to collect data to assure that the additional funds are directed to personal care attendants and home health aides the Department requires that all providers submit payroll data reflecting wage scales pre-raise and post-raise. The following steps will be required from each provider to demonstrate that this legislative mandate has been met:

- 1.) Complete the attached excel spreadsheet entitled "Table for Hourly Wage Reporting". This spreadsheet must be completed for all personal care attendants and home health aides that worked for your agency after October 1, 2016.
 - a. The spreadsheet must include the employee name, job title, hourly wage pre and post raise, the average weekly hours worked, amount of back pay they will be provided (between October 1, 2016 and the implementation of the new rates) and the number of hours worked for back pay.
 - b. The spreadsheet must also include the providers name and a contact person for questions regarding payroll information.

- 2.) The Table for Hourly Wage Reporting must be emailed to Jeffrey Schmeltz and Michelle Lizotte (jeffrey.schmeltz@ohhs.ri.gov and Michelle.Lizotte@ohhs.ri.gov) on or before February 1, 2017.

The above timeline is intended to provide sufficient flexibility to ensure that the retroactive payments will be received and disbursed to employees appropriately. Please contact EOHHS if you have any questions regarding this process.

For Medicaid Fee-for Service Payments:

Rate Change:

The rate change will apply to procedure codes S5215, S5125 U1, and S5130 for the following programs:

Core Community Services
Habilitation Community Services
Preventive Services
DEA Waiver
DEA Co-pay
Severely Disabled Pediatric Home Care (S5125 and S5130 only)

The base rates for the listed procedure codes will be increased by 7.5%.

The new base rate is:

S5125 – \$4.63
S5125 U1 – \$4.47
S5130 – \$4.34

Providers eligible for enhanced rates will also have their base rate increased by 7.5%.

For additional questions:

Please contact the following persons:

Jeffrey Schmeltz and Michelle Lizotte
(jeffrey.schmeltz@ohhs.ri.gov and Michelle.Lizotte@ohhs.ri.gov)

	A	B	C
1	Cost Title (ex. Payroll, Taxes, etc.)	Employer Cost for Implementing (Dollar Amount)	
2		\$ 1.00	
3			
4			
5			
6		\$	1.00
Total Cost for Implementing (excluding Wages):			