

FEDERAL MEDICAID NOTICE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAID

Pursuant to 42 CFR 447.205 and 441.304, the director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid (department) gives notice of the department's intent to change its methods and standards for Medicaid payment, and services and/or operations for the Individual Options (IO), Level One (L1), and Self-Empowered Life Funding Waivers (SELF).

Waiver amendments for all three Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD)-operated waiver amendments reflect State budget investments into Homemaker/Personal Care (HPC) direct service providers (DSP), as well as modifications requested by Ohio's stakeholders and self-advocates to modernize the Non-Medical Transportation (NMT) and Transportation services.

The HPC base wage rate over the course of two years, beginning January 1, 2020, will increase from \$12.82 per hour to \$13.23 per hour.

The NMT and Transportation per-mile rates are proposed for a comprehensive redesign which will include a provision for reimbursement for modified vehicles. The new proposed rates are as follows:

Non-Medical Transportation and Transportation Proposed Rate Design			
	1 Individual	2 or 3 Individuals	4 or More Individuals
Modified Vehicle	\$1.00 per person	\$.50 per person	\$.38 per person
Non-Modified Vehicle	\$.58 per person	\$.29 per person	\$.22 per person

Reimbursement rates for HPC and the additional direct services derive from the independent rate setting model, developed by a third-party consultant. The model uses Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) information specific to Ohio's job market, reimbursement for employee related expenses (ERE), administrative overhead and non-billable work time to calculate a statewide rate for each service. This statewide rate is then adjusted for eight cost of doing business categories.

The base wage rate used in the independent rate model was set using the average of the BLS job categories of Home Health Aides (31-1011) and Nursing Aides, Orderlies and Attendants (31-1012). The statewide rates for agency providers and non-agency providers reflect differences in administrative overhead, supervisory-related expenses, and non-billable work time.

In July 2019, the Ohio General Assembly passed a total 20% increase, and a 40% increase to DSPs of routine (HPC) and Onsite/On-call HPC, respectively. The rates for these affected services are set to take effect on January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021 (for routine HPC only).

Additionally, the department is:

- Modifying the service definition on NMT to allow for transportation to and from volunteer opportunities and college classes;
- Modifying the service definition of the subservice, on-site/on-call, under the HPC and Participant-Directed HPC services to clarify the length of time required before a provider becomes eligible to bill on-site/on-call.

Implementation of this change in the methods and standards for setting payment rates for DSPs providing HPC and Onsite/On-call HPC, and NMT is expected to increase annual aggregate expenditures for IO, L1 and SELF by approximately \$334 million dollars.

Any person may examine and obtain a copy of the changes, without charge, at the following locations:

Ohio Department of Medicaid, 50 West Town Street, Fourth Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215;
Any county department of job and family services; or

On the internet at <http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us> by searching Ohio Administrative Code rules 5123-9-06, 5123-9-18, 5123-8-19, 5123-9-24, 5123-9-30, 5123-9-32, and 5123-9-40.

Written comments regarding these changes may be sent to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, attn.: **Nyoka Craddolph, Medicaid Health Systems Administrator, Medicaid Division and Administration**, 30 E. Broad Street, 13th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414 and may be reviewed at the same location. Comments may also be provided by e-mail at the following address: Nyoka.craddolph@dodd.ohio.gov. Comments must be received no later than September 25th, 2019.