



Steve Bullock, Governor

Sheila Hogan, Director

Date: October 7, 2020
To: Big Sky Waiver Stakeholders
From: Marie Matthews, State Medicaid Director
Subject: 1915(c) Home and Community Based Montana Medicaid Big Sky Waiver for the Elderly and Adults with Physical Disabilities

We are sending this letter to invite comment from Big Sky Waiver stakeholders regarding an upcoming amendment to the 1915(c) Home and Community Based Montana Medicaid Big Sky Waiver for the Elderly and Adults with Physical Disabilities (BSW) that Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) will be submitting for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approval on or before November 5, 2020. The effective date of the amendment is **January 27, 2021**.

Adult Residential Rate Increases

DPHHS has determined daily rate increases for assisted living, specialized assisted living for individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and group homes that serve elderly and disabled members are required to address and remedy identified barriers to access and quality service delivery for elderly and disabled Montanans across the state. The congregate care services identified are necessary to serve the high needs of Montana Medicaid residents.

Administrative Rule of Montana (ARM) 37.85.105

- Residential Habilitation - Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Foster Homes (billing code T2031) will increase to \$104.00 maximum per day from \$78.80 maximum rate per day.
- Residential Habilitation - TBI/Adult Residential (code T2016) will increase to \$165.77 per day from \$109.78 per day.
- Residential Habilitation - Elderly Disabled Group Home (code T2016) will increase to \$206.58 per day from \$158.91 per day.

Big Sky Waiver New Service Proposal

DPHHS has also determined that residents exhibiting adverse behaviors, or in need of enhanced memory care, prompts the need for the establishment a new BSW Service. Adverse behaviors are often compounded by complex diagnoses and unique disease progression. Behavior management intervention within assisted living facilities promotes a Medicaid resident's greater ability to age in place within their preferred setting and community. A resident's ability to age in place maintains consistency, interpersonal relationships, emotional security, and dignity.

Historically, it has been found that when residents exhibit adverse behaviors, such as verbal and physical aggression, wandering, elopement, frequent falls, and impulsive behaviors and/or actions, assisted living facilities are often compelled to issue residents an involuntary 30-day eviction notice. If discharges are rendered successful, residents often are inappropriately

hospitalized, placed in skilled nursing facilities, or settings specializing in mental health intervention until stabilized.

The name and requested rate for this new service are: Residential Habilitation – Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Foster Homes- Behavior Management (code T2031), reimbursed at \$141.00 per day.

The current BSW fee schedule effective July 1, 2020 can be found at:

<https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/28#184572515-fee-schedules--elderly-and-physically-disabled-waiver>. The draft BSW amendment is available for review on October 7, 2020 at <http://dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/csb>. The state, upon request, will make available hard copies of the draft waiver amendment.

Your questions and comments can be submitted **from October 7 through November 5, 2020**, addressed to: Mary Eve Kulawik, Medicaid State Plan Amendment and Waiver Coordinator, at (406) 444-2584 or mkulawik@mt.gov; or Director's Office, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604-4210. Please let us know if you would like to arrange a date and time to discuss these Waiver amendments.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Medicaid program.