

Posted online for public comment on September 30, 2019, Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Services State Plan Amendment effective October 1, 2019

On or before November 30, 2019, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) will submit the Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Services Medicaid State Plan Amendment for approval to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, effective October 1, 2019.

DPHHS is proposing amendments to Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 37.40.307 and 37.85.105 to increase assisted living and nursing facility reimbursement rates for services provided on or after October 1, 2019.

DPHHS proposes these ARM amendments because there are funds in the nursing home bed fee tax account that are designated for the purpose of supplementing Medicaid rates to nursing homes. DPHHS has determined there are adequate funds in the bed fee tax account to meet the obligations of the proposed rate increase. DPHHS proposes to increase the assisted living reimbursement rates concurrently with the nursing home rate increase and has determined there are adequate funds to meet the obligations of the proposed rate increase.

ARM 37.40.307

The proposed change to the average statewide price for nursing facilities for state fiscal year (SFY) 2020 equates to a 1.84% average increase over the July 1, 2019, SFY 2020 price. The average daily rate increases to \$208.04 from \$204.30. The total annual fiscal impact is \$3.7 million of combined state and federal funds. The rate calculation includes consideration of sufficient funding and access to services.

ARM 37.85.105

The proposed amendments to ARM 37.85.105(4)(a) and ARM 37.85.105(5)(b) update two fee schedules to reflect an increase from \$77.05 to \$78.80 in the Medicaid daily rate for assisted living facilities. These rates are published in the fee schedules for the Home and Community Based (HCB) Big Sky Waiver and the HCB Waiver for Individuals with Severe Disabling Mental Illness (SDMI). The rate will be effective for services rendered on and after October 1, 2019.

Assisted living facility reimbursement will include a 2.27% increase over the SFY20 July 1, 2019 maximum daily Medicaid rate. Anticipated days for fiscal year (FY) 2020 for both the Big Sky Waiver and SDMI Waiver are 271,246. The estimated annual cost of the increase will be approximately \$356,010 of combined state and federal funds.

Copies of DPHHS's proposed nursing facility and assisted living Medicaid reimbursement rates are posted at <http://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/proposedfs>.

We invite your comments and questions on the Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Services Medicaid State Plan Amendment postmarked **through November 1, 2019**. You may direct comments 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.