



STATE OF MARYLAND

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

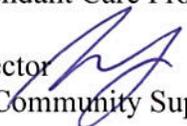
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

November 26, 2013

To: Waiver for Older Adults Personal Care Providers
Living at Home Attendant Care Providers

From: Mark A. Leeds, Director 
Long Term Care & Community Support Services

Re: Community First Choice

The purpose of this memo is to provide upcoming reimbursement changes due to implementation of Maryland Medicaid's new State Plan Program – Community First Choice.

The following information provided is in regards to the changes that will be made to the Waiver for Older Adults and Living at Home Waiver as of January 6, 2014. Please note that there will be changes to current billing procedure codes and reimbursement rates for personal assistance services.

As of January 6, 2014, the Waiver for Older Adults will be merged with the Living at Home Waiver and be renamed the Home and Community Based Options Waiver. In addition to the waiver merger, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will be implementing services in the new State Plan Option, Community First Choice (CFC) under the regulatory authority COMAR 10.09.84.

All waiver participants (other than Waiver for Older Adults participants receiving assisted living services) will be eligible to receive CFC services. Some services that were formerly part of the waivers will now be CFC services, to allow a larger group of people to access these services. Personal assistance services are one service which will be moved from the waiver to CFC. Personal assistance services will now be a CFC service available to all waiver participants.

All existing Medicaid providers will be automatically enrolled into the CFC program. Providers do not need to complete a new application or forward any documentation to maintain current enrollment status and provider numbers will not change. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will update existing provider enrollment statuses to accommodate these changes.

Please be advised that one emphasis of the new CFC program is participant direction. Should a participant choose to self-direct, they will have the ability to recruit, hire, train and supervise their personal assistance providers. Participants will also receive a flexible budget for personal assistance

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services. Within this budget participants will be able to choose the number of hours of personal assistance they receive as well as the hourly rate that they choose to pay their provider. Should a participant choose not to self-direct, the new standard hourly rate for personal assistance services will be the rate paid to providers.

The new standard hourly rates are listed in the following chart:

	SERVICE NAME	Current Rate PER HOUR	New Rate PER HOUR
	SELF-EMPL PCAID WO MED OLD ADULT WAIVER	\$10.22	\$12.27
	SELF-EMPL PCAID WITH MED OLD ADULT WAIVER	\$13.33	\$12.27
	AGENCY PC AIDE WO MEDS OLD ADULTS WAIVER	\$13.07	\$16.08
	AGENCY PC AIDE WITH MEDS OLD ADULT WAIVER	\$17.02	\$16.08
	AGENCY ATTENDANT CARE-ATTENDANT WAIVER LAH	\$17.11	\$16.08
	NON-AGENCY ATTENDANT CARE-ATTEND WAIVER LAH	\$13.39	\$12.27

(Payment will be made in 15-minute increments of service)

For independent providers, the standard hourly rate will be \$12.27 for personal assistance paid to providers. For participants who choose to self-direct, they will have flexibility to set provider payment rates of not less than \$10.22 per hour and not more than \$14.27 per hour. The Department has not yet concluded negotiations with your exclusive representative, AFSCME Council 67, for rates that will be effective July 1, 2014. We anticipate that these negotiations will be concluded shortly and we will notify you, as soon as possible, of any rate increases in the Governor's budget request for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2014.

Please note that the rates will be effective January 6, 2014.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Living at Home Waiver Division at 410-767-7479 or the Waiver for Older Adults Division at 410-767-5220.