

10/05/2023

HHSC Adopts Proposed Payment Rates for Attendant Services in Various Programs, Effective September 1

Background:

HHSC is notifying MCOs of payment rate changes for attendant services. In response to the 2024-25 General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023 (Article II, HHSC, Rider 30(a)), HHSC has increased the base wage for attendants from \$8.11 to \$10.60 per hour.

HHSC approved the payment rates for STAR Kids / STAR Health – Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) Waiver and Non-MDCP; STAR+PLUS Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and Non-HCBS, effective September 1, 2023.

Key Details:

The 2024-25 General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023 (Article II, HHSC, Rider 30(a)), increases the base wage for attendants from \$8.11 to \$10.60 per hour. Attendant services are non-technical medically related or personal care services provided to people at home or in community living settings. Long-term services and support (LTSS) attendant services include assisted living, employment services, habilitation, chores services, waiver transportation, in-home respite, supervised living, and residential support services.

HHSC approved these new rates through the public hearing process on July 11, 2023. The approved payment rates have been posted and can be accessed on the [Provider Finance Department \(PFD\) webpage](#).

Action:

Effective September 1, 2023, HHSC increased the base wage for attendants from \$8.11 to \$10.60 per hour. MCOs must update their claiming systems to reflect the new adopted rates. If an MCO has not adopted the new rates in their claiming system prior to the submission and adjudication of a claim with a service date on or after September 1, 2023, the MCO must reprocess the claim with the new adopted rate. Providers are not required to appeal the claims unless they are denied for additional reasons after the claims reprocessing is complete.

MCOs must send a written notice to providers and financial management services agencies (FMSAs) informing them of the new reimbursement rates. Revised individual service plans (ISPs) should be sent to FMSAs indicating the number of service hours available at the new rate and the effective date of the updated ISP.

HHSC is requiring that MCOs provide revised ISPs to FMSAs as soon as possible to ensure timely updates to individual budgets. Revised ISPs reflecting increased attendant payment rates should be prioritized in order of the end date of the current ISP. All revised ISPs impacted by the increased rates must be submitted to the FMSA by Dec. 31, 2023.

Resources:

View the Aug. 31, 2023 MCO Notice "HHSC Adopts Proposed Payment Rates for Attendant Services in Various Programs, Effective September 1" (attached)

il2023-33_Pay Rates_PFD (attached)

Contact:

managed_care_initiatives@hhs.texas.gov

Attachment:

Adopted Pay Rates_alert.pdf il2023-33_Pay Rates_PFD.pdf

Type: Informational

To: STAR+PLUS; STARHEALTH; STAR_KIDS

From: Policy