



**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Bureau for Medical Services**

Bill J. Crouch
Cabinet Secretary

Cynthia E. Beane
Commissioner

TO: WV Medicaid Personal Care Services Providers

FROM: Cynthia Beane, Bureau for Medical Services Commissioner *CB*

DATE: 10/15/21

SUBJECT: Temporary Rate Increase for Personal Care Services

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 was signed into law on March 11, 2021. Section 9817 of ARPA provides States with a temporary ten percentage point increase to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). States must use funds equivalent to the amount of federal funds attributable to the increased FMAP to implement activities that enhance, expand, or strengthen Medicaid HCBS.

West Virginia is directing the majority of its ARPA funds to assist provider agencies with the recruitment and retention of direct-care workers. This is critical as COVID-19 continues to significantly impact the availability of direct-care workers in HCBS programs.

The rate for Personal Care Direct-Care Service T1019 is increased by 50% effective 4/1/2021 to 3/31/2022. Provider agencies will be required to attest in writing that at least eighty-five percent (85%) of the increased rate payments will be passed on to Direct-Care workers in the form of compensation increases as well as other incentives which may include but are not limited to retention bonuses, hiring bonuses, raises in wages, and increased benefit packages.

Please note that claims for Live-In Direct-Care workers (T1019-UK) are not included in the 50% rate increase but agencies may choose to use a portion of the 85% pass-through funds to increase compensation/incentives to these live-in workers. A portion of the 85% pass-through funds may also be used to increase compensation/incentives for Personal Care nursing staff. Agency directors, administrators, board members, clerical workers and other staff that do not directly provide billable services are not eligible for increased compensation/incentives from the 85% pass-through funds.

BMS appreciates your continued dedication and efforts to provide needed supports to West Virginia's most vulnerable populations during this challenging time.

If you have questions regarding the rate increase or any information in this memo, please contact Randy Hill at (304) 352-4301 randall.k.hill@wv.gov.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ATTESTATION

My signature below acknowledges that I have read and understand the information and requirements addressed in this memo, including that 85% of the referenced payment increases will be passed on to direct-care workers in the form of compensation increases and other incentives. Further, my signature attests that the agency will comply with the terms and conditions of receiving said funds and will report any discrepancies to the West Virginia Bureau for Medical Services.

Agency Name and Address

CEO/President Printed Name

Printed Title

Signature

Date

Please return signed document by October 31, 2021 to Laura Radcliff, laura.g.radcliff@wv.gov 350 Capitol Street, Room 250, Charleston, WV 25301. FAX 304-558-1451