



Center for Medicaid and State Operations  
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group (DEHPG)

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September 23, 2003

From: Acting Director  
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group

Subject: Annual Change in Medicaid Hospice Payment Rates—ACTION

To: All Associate Regional Administrators  
Division of Medicaid and State Operations

This memorandum contains the Medicaid hospice payment rates for Federal fiscal year 2004. **Please inform your staff and all State agencies in your jurisdiction of these new payment rates, which are effective October 1, 2003.**

The Medicaid hospice payment rates are calculated based on the annual hospice rates established under Medicare. These rates are authorized by section 1814(i)(1)(C)(ii) of the Social Security Act which also provides for an annual increase in payment rates for hospice care services. Hospice physician services are not increased under this provision.

The Medicaid hospice payment rates for care and services provided from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004 are increased as follows:

DESCRIPTION	DAILY RATE	WAGE COMPONENT SUBJECT TO INDEX	UNWEIGHTED AMOUNT
Routine Home Care	\$118.23	\$81.24	\$36.99
Continuous Home Care	\$689.45 full rate=24hrs. of care/\$28.73 hourly rate	\$473.72	\$215.73
Inpatient Respite Care	\$128.58	\$69.60	\$58.98
General Inpatient Care	\$525.28	\$336.23	\$189.05

In addition, section 1814(i)(2)(B) of the Act provides for an annual increase in the hospice cap amounts. The hospice cap runs from November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year through October 31<sup>st</sup>. The hospice cap amount for both Medicare and Medicaid for the cap year ending October 31, 2003 is \$18,661.29.

As a final note, please refer to the final rule for the hospice wage index, which will be published in the Federal Register in the near future. This new wage index, effective October 1, 2003 should be used by States to adjust the wage component of the daily hospice payment rates to reflect local geographical differences in the wage levels. The daily hospice rates specified above are base rates, which must be revised accordingly when the wage component is adjusted.

If you have any questions concerning this memorandum, please call Thomas Shenk at (410) 786-3295. This memorandum may be found on CMS' website at [www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/services/hospice.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/services/hospice.asp). Double click on memorandum under the heading "Hospice Rates". **Please note that this website will be promptly updated to include the Federal Register publication date when the final rule for the hospice wage index is published.**

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cc: Laurence Wilson, CCPPG  
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