

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Deputy Director-Medicaid

Transmittal # 20-27

TO: All DC Assisted Living Facility (ALF) Medicaid Providers

FROM: Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: July 9, 2020

SUBJECT: **Temporary Enhanced Reimbursement Rates for Assisted Living Facilities
Due to COVID-19**

Purpose

The purpose of this transmittal is to notify Assisted Living Facility (ALF) providers in the District's Medicaid program of temporary enhanced rates during the pendency of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) period¹. The reimbursement rate changes are temporary and effective for dates of services beginning March 11, 2020 and sunseting at the end of the federal Public Health Emergency.

DHCF is requesting a Medicaid Disaster relief State Plan Amendment from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). State Medicaid agencies may seek to implement the policies and procedures which are different from the policies and procedures otherwise applied under the Medicaid state plan. During the period of Presidential and Secretarial emergency declarations related to COVID-19 outbreak (or any renewals thereof), or for any shorter period².

DHCF also submitted an Appendix K waiver to CMS on April 8, 2020. An Appendix K is a standalone appendix that may be utilized by states during an emergency to request amendment to approved Medicaid home-and-community-based services Section 1915(c) waivers. The Appendix K includes actions that Medicaid agencies can take under the existing Section 1915 (c) home and community-based waiver authority in order to respond to an emergency. On April 17, 2020, CMS approved the District's Appendix K emergency preparedness response plan to combat COVID-19.

Background

The highly transmissible nature of the coronavirus (COVID-19) combined with the congregate nature of long-term care facilities, such as ALFs, can increase risk of transmission. Furthermore, beneficiaries served by ALFs, often older adults with underlying medical conditions, are at

¹ The Public Health Emergency period, for purposes of the information contained in this Transmittal, is from March 1, 2020, through the termination of the PHE, as determined by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including any extensions.

² On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a proclamation that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency by the authorities vested in him by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and consistent with section 1135 of the Social Security Act (Act). On March 13, 2020, pursuant to section 1135(b) of the Act, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services invoked his authority to waive or modify certain requirements of titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Act as a result of the consequences COVID-19 pandemic, to the extent necessary, as determined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

increased risk for severe illness if infected with the virus. DHCF is making the following temporary reimbursement rates enhancement to support providers with increased cost related to screening, personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, and other costs incurred during the PHE. The ALF reimbursement rate will be increased by fifteen (15%)

Enhanced Billing and Reimbursement

The table below provides a listing of both the billing code and new rates for ALF services. The Medicaid Fee Schedule is located on the DHCF website at <https://www.dc-medicaid.com/dcwebportal/nonsecure/feeScheduleDownload>.

Service Description	Procedure Codes	Billable Unit	Reimbursement Rates	Limit (Duration)	Effective Date
Assisted Living Services	T2031-U3	Flat Rate	\$188.36	Max Unit 1 Per Day	March 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020
Assisted Living Services	T2031-U3	Flat Rate	\$192.85	Max Unit 1 Per Day	July 1, 2020

ALF providers must submit adjustments with an increased billed amount to ensure payment of the enhanced rate. Submitting adjustments will allow DHCF to pay the additional amount due to the providers.

Contact

DHCF will continue to provide updates to this information as appropriate. If you have questions, please contact Andrea Clark, Reimbursement Analyst, Office of Rates & Reimbursements, at Andrea.Clark@dc.gov or 202-724-4096.

Cc: DC Hospital Association
 DC Primary Care Association
 DC Health Care Association
 DC Home Health Association
 DC Behavioral Health Association
 DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers
 Medical Society of DC