

MEMO

To: PCA/HMK

From: Global Home Health Care, Inc.

Date: 12/07/2020

Re: COVID-19 Rate Increase for PCA Participants

Recent legislation ([Minnesota Session Laws, 2020, 5th Special Session, Chapter 3, Article 10, Section 4](#)) allows for a temporary rate increase for direct support workers to respond to COVID-19. Therefore, DHS will temporarily increase rates/enhanced rates for direct support services provided to PCA participants by 8.4 percent. (The increase does not apply to qualified professional (QP) supervision services (T1019 UA) but applies to T1019 with any other modifier.) This document includes instructions to distribute this increase.

The temporary rate increase for PCA will be effective upon federal approval and will expire on Feb. 7, 2021. DHS anticipates the start date will be Dec. 1, 2020.

Requirements

When using the additional funds, the PCA agency must:

- Use at least 80 percent of the additional revenue to increase wages, salaries and benefits for direct support workers and any corresponding increase in the employer's share of FICA taxes, Medicare taxes, state/federal unemployment taxes and workers' compensation premiums
- Use the remainder of the additional revenue, if any, for activities and items necessary to support compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on sanitation and personal protective equipment.

Distribution plans

After the above requirements were factored into the rate increase formula, the COVID-19 rate for the PCA comes to 89 cent/hr for each PCA hour worked during the period. In further appreciation of Global Home Health Care to our PCA, we have decided to round the rate up to \$1.00 even and also to pay our Home Makers as well. We have added a new pay roll line item on your pay stub that will identify your COVID-19 rate wage increase distribution for each pay period.

Please feel free to contact DHS directly should you have a need to. Contact info:

Mail

Minnesota Department of Human Services
Community Supports and Continuing Care for Older Adults
PCA Temporary Rate Increase
P.O. Box 64967
St. Paul, MN 55164-0967

Email

Email questions to dhs.ccarates@state.mn.us. DHS will direct the questions to the person who can best provide an answer.

Phone

If you have questions, you can call the DSD Response Center at 651-431-4300. DHS will direct the questions to the person who can best provide an answer.

Note: The telephone number listed is a voice number. TDD users may call the Minnesota Relay at 711 or 800-627-3529. For the speech-to-speech relay, call 877-627-3848.