



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH, Commissioner

Effective Date: July 1, 2021- July 31, 2021

Contact: dana.robinson-rush@ct.gov

TO: Home Health Agencies/Access Agencies

**RE: Increased Reimbursement Rates for Select Home Health Services Effective for
July 1, 2021 through July 31, 2021**

This provider bulletin will supplement the guidance found in the following provider bulletins: [PB 22-03](#) Increased Rates for All Home Health Aide Services and [PB 22-04](#) Increased Reimbursement Rates for Select Home Health Services.

Effective for dates of service retroactive for the time period of July 1, 2021-July 31, 2021, the reimbursement rates for all home health services, excluding complex pediatric (0-18 years) skilled nursing visits and COVID-19 vaccine administration, were increased by 3.5%.

The 3.5% increase will be applied to the reimbursement rates that were in effect on June 30, 2021 for select procedure codes for the month of July 2021. Rate increases that were previously announced under PBs 2022-03 and 2022-04 are being retroactively applied to the applicable procedure codes for the month of July 2021. This means that the same rates, for each applicable service, that were previously announced as effective for dates of service August 1, 2021 and forward, are being made retroactively effective for dates of service July 1, 2021 through July 31, 2021.

This rate increase applies to all non-pediatric complex care home health services including medication administration services, assessments/evaluations, skilled nursing visits, nursing visits, home health aide services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language pathology services, and the rates for complex skilled nursing visits for adult HUSKY Health members (ages 19+ years old) effective

retroactive for the time period of July 1, 2021- July 31, 2021.

Please refer to provider bulletins, [PB 21-54](#) Increased Rates for Nursing Services for Home Health Pediatric Complex/High Tech Level of Care and [PB 22-02](#) Updating the Reimbursement Rate for Nursing Services for Home Health Pediatric Complex/High Tech Level of Care for guidance on billing pediatric complex skilled nursing visits.

Billing Instructions:

Paid claims where the detailed billed amount is equal to or greater than the new allowed amount will be systematically adjusted in a future rate mass adjustments special mass adjustment cycle on March 25, 2022. Providers will see these claims on their March 30, 2022 Remittance Advice. Gainwell Technologies will identify and reprocess these claims without any additional work on the part of providers. **Providers are encouraged to bill their usual and customary charge when submitting claims to ensure the systematic reprocessing of their claims whenever a rate change occurs.**

Prior Authorization (PA) Process:

No changes have been made to the PA process and home health agencies **must continue to request prior authorization from the medical administrative services organization (ASO), Community Health Network of Connecticut, Inc. (CHNCT), or the behavioral health ASO, Beacon Health Options (CT BHP) for greater than 14 hours of home health aide services per week.**

Home Health Agencies are reminded that PA for Home Health services to clients covered under the Connecticut Home Care Program (CHC), Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), and Personal Care Assistance (PCA) Waiver benefit plans are obtained from the Access Agency that case manages the client. PA for Home Health services provided to Autism (AUT) Waiver clients are obtained from the client's DSS Autism case manager. PAs for services below or at the standard benefit will auto approve, while those above will remain in an in-process status until reviewed by DSS for medical necessity.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) and Billing Instructions:

Home Health agencies who submit Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) mandated services to Gainwell Technologies for claim adjudication via the Santrax system must update their Master Rates to the usual and customary rates for dates of service beginning July 1, 2021 in their Sandata database prior to billing claims for dates of service July 1, 2021 and forward via the Sandata system.

Home Health agencies are encouraged to refer to the "Billing Rates" document by clicking on "Electronic Visit Verification" then "New Provider Information" then "Welcome Kit" then "Billing Rates" for assistance in updating their usual and customary rates in their Santrax system. Please click the link below to access the "Billing Rates" document from the www.ctdssmap.com Web site home page or use the link provided below.

[EVV Welcome Kit](#)

Providers who submitted claims at the previously allowable rate via EVV must first fully recoup the claim using the www.ctdssmap.com secure Web portal or via an 837 electronic transaction. Claims must then be rolled back in EVV and resubmitted to obtain the new rate.

Providers who have submitted claims at the previously allowed rate outside of EVV must adjust their claims via the Web portal or electronic 837 transaction to obtain the new rate.

Accessing the Fee Schedule:

The updated fee schedule can be accessed and downloaded by going to the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) Web site: www.ctdssmap.com. From this Web page, go to "Provider", then to "Provider Fee Schedule Download", scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "I Accept", then select the applicable fee schedule. To access the PDF file, click on the PDF icon for the Home Health fee schedule.

Posting Instructions: Policy transmittals can be downloaded from the Web site at www.ctdssmap.com.

Distribution: This policy transmittal is being distributed to providers of the CMAP by Gainwell Technologies.

Responsible Units:

Home Health Services - DSS, Division of Health Services, Medical Policy; Dana Robinson-Rush, Health Program Assistant, email Dana.Robinson-Rush@ct.gov.

Waivers (CT Home Care Program for Elders, Personal Care Assistant, Acquired Brain Injury, Autism} - DSS, Division of Health Services, Community Options; Jennifer Cavallaro, Co-Lead, email Jennifer.Cavallaro@ct.gov.

Electronic Visit Verification email ctevv@gainwelltechnologies.com.

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