

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Rate Setting
11 State House Station
109 Capitol St
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel.:(207) 287-3707; Fax: (207) 287-3005
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

4/15/2020

Total Allowable Inflated Direct Care Rate: [REDACTED]
Total Direct Add-on, Routine and Fixed Rate: [REDACTED]
Effective Date: 3/1/2020 to 5/31/2020

Dear Administrator:

This is to inform you that the Medical Assistance Program (Title XIX) will allow payment to your facility for room, board and care of eligible individuals for Nursing Facility care at the per diem rate for services on, and after, the effective date stated above. A description of your interim prospective rate, determined by the Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with the State of Maine Principles of Reimbursement for Nursing Facilities, is provided on the attached rate calculation.

In order to best support Nursing Facilities' response to COVID-19, the Department of Health and Human Services (the Department) is providing an extraordinary circumstance allowance (ECA) for Nursing Facilities participating in the MaineCare program in Maine. The ECA will be effective March 1, 2020 and extend through May 31, 2020.

The ECA will be paid to providers through an increase of \$23.58 per day to their interim prospective rate.

The ECA was calculated in collaboration with the Maine Health Care Association to represent estimated cost increases due to COVID-19 response in the areas of direct care staffing, non-communal dining, visitor/vendor screening, housekeeping and supplies, and personal protective equipment (PPE). While the ECA appears as an add-on to the Direct Care Component, this is for billing purposes only. The funds may be used for any of the aforementioned areas. The Department will recognize bonuses intended to help ensure staff retention under the public health emergency, as long as the facility documents the reason for the bonus.

The ECA will be reconciled at the end of the authorized ECA period. Providers will need to submit a financial reconciliation to the DHHS – Division of Audit no later than 30 days after the authorized ECA period has ended. The financial reconciliation must document the actual costs incurred for COVID-19-related expenditures compared to the ECA payments received. The Department will review the submissions for reasonableness and necessity of the expenditures and settle on any under/overpayment within 45 days.

If needed and at the Department's sole discretion, the temporary rate may be extended on a month by month basis, at the same rate or a different rate. Departmental budget constraints are a significant consideration. Similarly, depending on the timing and scope and accessibility of federal funding through the CARES Act and/or other legislation, the Department may opt to discontinue the rate at its discretion.

If you have any questions, please contact Herb Downs with the Division of Audit at DHHS.Audit@maine.gov with "COVID-19 ECA Question" in the subject line or call the Division of Audit main line at 207-287-2403.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Kraut', written over a white background.

Peter Kraut
Manager of Rate Setting
Department of Health and Human Service

cc: Herb Downs. Division of Audit
File

PHONE: (207) 287-3707

TTY USERS: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

FAX: (207) 287-3005