

**Letter of Direction #79**

**Date:** March 28, 2022

**To:** Centennial Care 2.0 Managed Care Organizations

**From:** Nicole Comeaux, Director, Medical Assistance Division 

**Subject:** Temporary Economic Recovery Payment Increase for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

**Title:** 15% Temporary Economic Recovery Payments for HCBS Services

The purpose of this Letter of Direction (LOD) is to provide guidance and directives to the Centennial Care 2.0 Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to implement a temporary economic recovery payment rate increase of fifteen percent (15%) reimbursement for specific Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) providers as part of Proposal W.2 from HSD's *Spending Plan for the Implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Section 9817*. These providers were essential to helping so many New Mexicans stay safely in their homes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This temporary economic recovery payment is intended to support agencies who have had additional costs resulting from the pandemic and to be passed on to direct care providers.

The 15% rate increase in reimbursement will be applied for dates of service from May 1st, 2021 to June 30th, 2022. For these dates, MCOs will provide lump sum payments to providers for all applicable claims as described below. For the dates of May 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 HSD will provide lump sum payments to the MCOs for all applicable adjustments. For the dates of April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022 adjustment to the MCO CY2022 capitation rates will be made.

**Rate Increase Implementation Timeframes and Reporting**

The MCOs are directed to issue lump sum payments. The first payment to include dates of service from May 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 and be paid out to providers no later than 30 days of the date of issuance of this LOD. Thereafter, the MCOs should issue quarterly lump sum payments no later than 60 days following the end of each quarter. These quarterly payments will include dates of service from January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

The MCOs are directed to implement changes associated with these instructions, including system changes and provider contract negotiations, as needed, no later than 30 days from the date of issuance of this LOD. HSD directs the MCOs to provide an update on the first lump

sum payment 45 days from the date of issuance of this LOD and an update on subsequent quarterly lump sum payments no later than 75 days after the last day of the quarter of issuance. This update shall consist of a file of all the payments made by provider for the Agency-Based Community Benefit (ABCB) and a file of all the payments made through the Self-Directed agent. MCOs should retain all supporting documentation and data for payments made to the providers. MCOs will be required to provide this information upon HSD's request.

**Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Benefit Services**

MCOs are directed to apply a 15% rate economic recovery payment increase to the applicable Private Duty Nursing (PDN) and Personal care Services (PCS) services under the EPSDT benefit as described in NMAC 8.308.9.15 with provider type 324.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
<b>T1000 TD (RN Rendered)</b>	Private duty / independent nursing service(s) - licensed, up to 15 minutes	5/1/2021	6/30/2022
<b>T1000 TE (LPN Rendered)</b>	Private duty / independent nursing service(s) - licensed, up to 15 minutes	5/1/2021	6/30/2022
<b>S5125 (PCS Code)</b>	Attendant Care, Per 15 minutes	5/1/2021	6/30/2022

**Community Benefit Services**

**Agency-Based Community Benefit (ABCB)**

MCOs are directed to apply a 15% temporary economic recovery payment for the following ABCB procedure codes with provider type 363.

<b>Procedure Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
S5100	Adult Day Health
T2031	Assisted Living
T2038	Community Transition Services
S5161	Emergency Response
S5161 U1	Emergency Response High Need
S5165	Environmental Modifications
H2019	Behavior Support Consultation
H2019 TT	Behavior Support Consultation (Clinic Based)
H2024	Employment Supports
S9122	Home Health Aide
S9470	Nutritional Counseling
99509	Personal Care-Consumer Directed
T1019	Personal Care-Consumer Delegated
S5110	Personal Care-Training
G9006	Personal Care-Directed-Administrative Fee

G9012	Personal Care-Directed-Advertisement Reimbursement Fee
T1002	Private Duty Nursing for Adults-RN
T1003	Private Duty Nursing for Adults-LPN
T1002 U1	Respite RN
99509 U1	Respite
G0151	Physical Therapy
G0152	Occupational Therapy
G0153	Speech Language Therapy

**Self-Directed Community Benefit (SDCB)**

MCOs are directed to apply a 15% temporary economic recovery payment for the following SDCB procedure codes.

<b>Procedure Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
99509	Self-Directed PCS
T2019	Employment Supports
S5100	Customized Community Supports
G0151	Physical Therapy
G0152	Occupational Therapy
G0153	Speech Language Pathology
H2019	Behavior Support Consultation
T1002	Private Duty Nursing-RN
T1003	Private Duty Nursing-LPN
S9470	Nutritional Counseling
97810	Acupuncture
90901	Biofeedback
98940	Chiropractic
97532 or 97129	Cognitive Rehab Therapy
S8940	Hippotherapy
97124	Massage Therapy
S8990	Naprapathy
S9445	Traditional Healing
T1005	Respite
S5161	Emergency Response (monthly fee)
S5160	Emergency Response (testing and maintenance)
S5165	Environmental Modifications
T2049	Non-Med Transportation (mile)
T2004	Non-Med Transportation (carrier pass)
T1999	Related Goods (for services only as applicable-on a case-by-case basis)
97122	Home Health Aide

The MCOs are directed to work with their Self-Directed contractor, to determine the appropriate amounts that should be paid as incentive payments to the renderers of the services. These payments will be made outside of the member's SDCB budget. They will not impact the member's Nursing Facility cost of care limit.

This LOD will sunset with the completion of this portion of the economic recovery payment increase.