

**Posted online for public comment on June 1, 2018**  
**1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Amendments pertaining to**  
**Medicaid Private Duty Nursing effective July 1, 2018**

On June 30, 2018, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) will submit the following Montana Medicaid Waiver Amendments pertaining to Private Duty Nursing (PDN) for approval to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

DPHHS has determined that an increase to the PDN fees is necessary to serve high-needs Montana Medicaid members in the least costly setting. According to the Montana Medicaid 2017 Access Monitoring Plan, one PDN provider withdrew as a Medicaid provider between state fiscal years 2016 and 2017, leaving four providers available to serve Montana's Medicaid population. In 2018, one of the four remaining providers notified the Department that it could no longer provide PDN at the reimbursement rate currently paid by the Medicaid program, and that it would discontinue services within three months.

In response, DPHHS analyzed the Medicaid population served, the number of PDN agencies across the state, the existing labor market for nurses, the cost of providing PDN benefits to Medicaid members, and the higher level of care costs avoided by providing the PDN benefit.

Therefore, effective July 1, 2018, DPHHS now proposes to reimburse PDN providers at the rates of \$8.95 per 15 minutes of care by a licensed practical nurse (LPN) and \$11.28 per 15 minutes by a registered nurse (RN). The rates are currently \$7.38 for LPN services and \$8.69 for RN services.

The rate change will affect the PDN rate in the following 1915(c) HCBS Waivers:

- Comprehensive Waiver for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, for a total estimated annual fiscal impact of \$247,807.96.
- Waiver for Individuals with Severe Disabling Mental Illness, for a total estimated annual fiscal impact of \$24,755.20.
- Big Sky Waiver for the Elderly and the Physically Disabled, for a total estimated annual fiscal impact of \$516,198.96.

We invite your comments and questions **by 5:00 p.m. on June 30, 2018**. You may direct comments to Mary Eve Kulawik, Medicaid State Plan Amendment and Waiver Coordinator, at (406) 444-2584 or [mkulawik@mt.gov](mailto:mkulawik@mt.gov); or Director's Office, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604-4210.