

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**6/29/2021 PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RHODE ISLAND MEDICAID  
STATE PLAN**

In accordance Rhode Island General Laws 42-35, notice is hereby given that the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) proposes to make the following amendment to the Rhode Island State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act:

**Hospice Rate Annual Increase Revision**

In accordance with the anticipated State Fiscal Year 2022 Budget, EOHHS is seeking federal authority to change release date of the New England Consumer Price Index card used to determine annual increases to the hospice provider rates. Additionally, EOHHS is clarifying that, in accordance with Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) 40-8.9-9, the New England Consumer Price Index card will only be applied if there is an increase in the medical care data.

These changes are proposed to take effect on July 1, 2021 and are anticipated to increase annual expenditures by approximately \$9,000 all funds.

This proposed amendment is accessible on the EOHHS website ([www.eohhs.ri.gov](http://www.eohhs.ri.gov)) or available in hard copy upon request (401-462-1501 or RI Relay, dial 711). Interested persons should submit data, views, or written comments by July 29, 2021 to Bryan Law, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 3 West Rd, Cranston, RI, 02920, or [Bryan.Law@ohhs.ri.gov](mailto:Bryan.Law@ohhs.ri.gov) or via phone at (401) 462-1501.

In accordance with the Rhode Island General Laws 42-35-3, an oral hearing will be granted on the proposed State Plan Amendment if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, an agency, or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within thirty (30) days of this notice.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services does not discriminate against individuals based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief, or handicap in acceptance for or provision of services or employment in its programs or activities.

## Proposed Revisions to State Plan Pages

Items on the basis of the current prevailing rate at which the item is generally available to the public in the State of Rhode Island.

(4) Eyeglasses prescribed by a physician skilled in diseases of the eye or by an optometrist, except as otherwise noted in the State Plan, state-developed fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of eyeglasses. The agency's fee schedule rate was set as of April 1993 for frames and March 2009 for lenses and is effective for services provided on or after those dates. All rates are published at <http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Fee%20Schedules/Medicaid%20Fee%20Schedule.pdf>

m. Nurse midwife services: except as otherwise noted in the State Plan, state-developed fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of nurse mid-wife services. The agency's fee schedule rate was set as of 2000 and is effective for services provided on or after that date. All rates are published at <http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Fee%20Schedules/Medicaid%20Fee%20Schedule.pdf>

n. Hospice Services: Reimbursement for Hospice care will be made at predetermined rates for each day in which a beneficiary is under the care of the Hospice. The daily rate is applicable to the type and intensity of services furnished to the beneficiary for that day.

Effective July 1, 2019, with the exception of payment for physician services, base rates for levels of hospice care are as follows:

- Routine Home Care Days 1-60: \$239.05 per day
- Routine Home Care Days 60+: \$187.75 per day
- Continuous Home Care: \$50.40 per hour
- Inpatient Respite Care: \$225.22 per day
- General Inpatient Care: \$920.81 per day
- Service Intensity Add-On (SIA)-Clinical Social Worker: \$50.44 per hour
- Service Intensity Add-On (SIA)-Registered Nurse: \$53.68 per hour

Effective October 1, 2019, the hospice rates will be for each individual level of hospice care to pay the greater of either:

1. The hospice rate listed above; or
2. The current Medicaid minimum hospice rate published by CMS (effective 10/1/19)

The following methodology will be used to calculate the subsequent hospice rates for the individual levels of care:

- Each July 1, the rates effective October 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous calendar year will be ~~increased~~~~trended~~ by the ~~May-March~~ release of the New England Consumer Price Index card, ~~containing February data~~, as determined by the United States Department of Labor for medical care.