



INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2512-MC-FFS

DATE: December 1, 2023

TO: All Iowa Medicaid Medical Providers

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

FROM: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Iowa Medicaid

RE: Two-Tiered Hospice Payment and Service Intensity Add-on (SIA)

EFFECTIVE: October 1, 2023

Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code 441 IAC 79.1(14), Medicaid hospice rates are based on the methodology used in setting Medicare rates for the categories of care provided with application of an appropriate area wage adjustment.

A letter from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) dated September 13, 2023, updated the rates for the two-tiered system and Service Intensity Add-on (SIA) effective October 1, 2023. The State of Iowa will be using tables for providers who have submitted the required quality data. The rates and wage adjustments for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 are available [here](#)¹.

Routine Hospice Care (RHC)

The final Medicare hospice rule published on August 6, 2015, (CMS- 1629-F) changes the payment methodology for RHC. The rule changes the payment methodology for RHC to implement two rates that will result in a higher base payment for the first 60 days of hospice care and a reduced base payment rate for days thereafter.

SIA Payment

Effective for hospice services with dates of service on and after January 1, 2016, a service intensity add-on payment will be made for a visit by a social worker or a registered nurse (RN), when provided during routine home care in the last seven days of life. The SIA payment is in addition to the RHC rate. The SIA payment will be equal to the Continuous Home Care, hourly rate multiplied by the hours of nursing or social work provided (up to four hours total) that occurred on the day of service. The SIA payment will also be adjusted by the appropriate wage index.

¹<https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/9529/download?inline>

Please refer to Informational Letter (IL) [1766-MC-FFS²](#) issued on February 17, 2017, for more information on RHC and SIA.

The billing codes to use for the SIA are G0299 for the RN and G0155 for the social worker.

If you have questions, please contact Iowa Medicaid Provider Services or the appropriate MCO:

Iowa Medicaid Provider Services:

- Phone: 1-800-338-7909
- Email: imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us

Amerigroup Iowa, Inc.:

- Phone: 1-800-454-3730
- Email: ProvidersolutionsIA@amerigroup.com
- Website: <https://providers.amerigroup.com/ia>

Iowa Total Care:

- Phone: 1-833-404-1061
- Email: providerrelations@iowatotalcare.com
- Website: <https://www.iowatotalcare.com>

Molina Healthcare of Iowa:

- Phone: 1-844-236-1464
- Email: iproviderrelations@molinahealthcare.com
- Website: <https://www.molinahealthcare.com/providers/ia/medicaid/home.aspx>
- Provider portal: <https://www.availity.com/molinahealthcare>

² <https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/IMPA/Information/Bulletins.aspx>