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**INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2654-MC-FFS**

**DATE:** February 13, 2025

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Hospice 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, 2024

**\*\*\*This Informational Letter (IL) replaces [IL No. 1766-MC-FFS](#)<sup>1</sup>, issued February 17, 2017 and [IL No. 1952-MC-FFS](#)<sup>2</sup>, issued September 28, 2018.\*\*\***

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, 2024, updated the rates for the two-tiered system and Service Intensity Add-On (SIA) effective October 1, 2024. CMS provided rates and tables, which list providers that have and have not submitted the necessary quality data, will be used by the State of Iowa. The rates and wage adjustments for the period October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, are available on the [Hospice Services webpage](#)<sup>3</sup> on the [Iowa Department of Health and Human Services' \(HHS\) website](#)<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/imp/Information/ViewDocument.aspx?viewdocument=\(d948c361-1acc-40ba-9ff4-062b6d86e52f\)](https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/imp/Information/ViewDocument.aspx?viewdocument=(d948c361-1acc-40ba-9ff4-062b6d86e52f))

<sup>2</sup> <https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/IMP/Information/ViewDocument.aspx?viewdocument=bb7719a0-a3cb-4499-b950-aa795d64115b>

<sup>3</sup> <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/iowa-medicaid-programs/hospice>

<sup>4</sup> <https://hhs.iowa.gov/>

## **Routine Hospice Care**

The final Medicare hospice rule was published on August 6, 2015, (CMS- 1629-F). This changed the payment methodology for routine hospice care. The payment methodology for routine hospice care now has two rates resulting in a higher base payment for the first 60 days of hospice care and a reduced base payment rate for days thereafter.

## **SIA Payment**

The SIA payment continues to be in effect for hospice services. 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 Routine Hospice Care (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.

As a reminder, the information in the original publication, [IL No. 1952-MC-FFS<sup>5</sup>](#), issued September 28, 2018, remains a requirement for a SIA payment if the following criteria are met:

- 1) The day occurs during the last seven days of life and the member is discharged as deceased: (field 17 on the UB-04 claim form)
  - a. 40 Expired at home
  - b. 41 Expired in a medical facility
  - c. 42 Expired place unknown
- 2) Direct patient care is provided by a Registered Nurse (RN) or social worker that day for at least 15 minutes and up to four hours total
- 3) The service is not provided in a skilled nursing facility or nursing facility
- 4) The service is not provided by a social worker via telephone

The HCPCS required in conjunction with the respective revenue codes for the reimbursement of SIA are G0299 for the RN and G0155 for social worker.

If you have questions, please contact Iowa Medicaid Provider Services or the appropriate managed care organization (MCO):

### **Iowa Medicaid Provider Services:**

- Phone: 1-800-338-7909
- Email: [imeproviderservices@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:imeproviderservices@hhs.iowa.gov)

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<sup>5</sup> <https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/IMPA/Information/ViewDocument.aspx?viewdocument=bb7719a0-a3cb-4499-b950-aa795d64115b>

**Managed Care Organizations (MCOs):**

**Iowa Total Care:**

- Phone: 1-833-404-1061
- Email: [providerrelations@iowatotalcare.com](mailto:providerrelations@iowatotalcare.com)
- Website: <https://www.iowatotalcare.com>

**Molina Healthcare of Iowa:**

- Phone: 1-844-236-1464
- Email: [iaproviderrelations@molinahealthcare.com](mailto:iaproviderrelations@molinahealthcare.com)
- Website: <https://www.molinahealthcare.com/providers/ia/medicaid/home.aspx>
- Provider Portal: <https://www.availity.com/molinahealthcare>

**Wellpoint Iowa, Inc.:**

- Phone: 1-833-731-2143
- Email: [ProviderSolutionsIA@wellpoint.com](mailto:ProviderSolutionsIA@wellpoint.com)
- Website: <https://www.provider.wellpoint.com/iowa-provider/home>