

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2288-MC-FFS

DATE: November 8, 2021

TO: Iowa Medicaid Hospice Providers

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

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

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

EFFECTIVE: October 1, 2021

Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) 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 22, 2021, updated the rates for the two-tiered system and SIA effective October 1, 2021. The State of Iowa is using tables for providers who have submitted the required quality data. The rates and wage adjustments for the period October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022, can be found [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, the SIA 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://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/Rates%20for%20Public%20Use%20-%20Effective%20October%201%2C%202021.xlsx>

Please refer to [Informational Letter \(IL\) 2186-MC-FFS](#)² issued on November 18, 2020, for more information on RHC and SIA.

The billing codes for the SIA are G0299 for the RN; and G0155 for the social worker. Rates effective October 1, 2021, can be found [here](#)³.

If you have questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or by email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.

² [Informational Letter \(IL\) 2186-MC-FFS](#)

³ <https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/Rates%20for%20Public%20Use%20-%20Effective%20October%201%2C%202021.xlsx>