

# Nurse & Aide Service Rate Modernization

## Overview:

Since 2011, Ohio has recognized a long-term need to increase access to home and community based services and has commenced work to modernize the way Ohio Medicaid pays for nursing and aide services.

- » **Ohio Medicaid engaged an actuary (Mercer) to study factors such as labor market data, education and licensure status and length of service visit to assist in the development of a new rate structure.**
- » **Rates will be modernized to ensure that all providers are present and providing services for a minimum of 35 minutes, in order to bill for the Medicaid base rate.**
- » **Most provider types will see gains in reimbursement for lengths of service of two hours or more.**
- » **Ohio Medicaid recognizes the advanced education and skill level of RNs and reflects that in the rate modifications.**

## Proposed Changes:

The proposal is the result of a collaborative dialogue that began in 2013. Ohio Medicaid worked with a broad group of stakeholders, including: providers and their associations, beneficiaries, advocates, and sister agencies to develop the proposed rates.

The proposal approves funding for two new distinct services:

### RN Assessments:

Assessments will be conducted prior to the initiation of service and before any changes are made to an individual's existing service package. An assessment will also be administered should an individual's condition change significantly.

These services will be subject to RN assessments: home health services, private duty nursing (PDN), waiver nursing, personal care services (provided by an accredited or certified agency), HOME Choice nursing services.

### RN Consultation:

Consultations may be conducted face-to-face or by phone. A consultation will be required in the event that individual's condition changes significantly and requires the modification of the care plan.

Previously, LPNs were required to make their own payment arrangements for a consulting RN. This will become a Medicaid reimbursable service and the financial responsibilities will no longer be on the LPN.

### Additional Outcomes:

- » Increases total RN and Aide reimbursement by \$20 million annually.
- » Initial service time (base rates) will continue to be paid at a higher level than unit rates. The new rate will be less than the current 'front-loaded hour.'
- » Unit rate and the amounts paid for longer lengths of service increase for agency aides; however, all rates drop for independent aides.

## Rates:

Home Health, PDN, or Waiver RN Nursing (G0154, T1000, T1002)	Agency		Non-Agency	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Base rate	\$52.20	\$45.40	\$41.76	\$38.60
Unit rate	\$5.69	\$8.32	\$5.69	\$6.96

  

Home Health, PDN, or Waiver LPN Nursing (G0154, T1000, T1003)	Agency		Non-Agency	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Base rate	\$52.20	\$37.90	\$41.76	\$31.65
Unit rate	\$5.69	\$6.82	\$5.69	\$5.57

  

Waiver Home Care Attendant (S5125)	Agency		Non-Agency	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Base rate	n/a	n/a	\$25.89	\$25.95
Unit rate - Nursing	n/a	n/a	\$4.17	\$4.43
Unit Rate - Personal Care	n/a	n/a	\$3.00	\$2.86

  

Home Health Aide or Waiver Personal Care (G0156, T1019)	Agency		Non-Agency	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Base rate	\$23.26	\$22.45	\$18.61	\$18.10
Unit rate	\$3.00	\$3.73	\$3.00	\$2.86

  

RN Assessment (T1001)	Agency		Non-Agency	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Per assessment	n/a	\$37.08	n/a	\$31.64

  

RN Consultation (T1001)	Agency		Non-Agency	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Per 15-minute unit	n/a	\$8.32	n/a	\$6.96

#### Current calculation for codes (G0154, G0156, T1000, T1002, T1003, T1019, S5125)

Units on line <=4: Base Rate  
Units on line >4: Base Rate + ((Units-4)\*Unit Rate)

#### New calculation for codes (G0154, G0156, T1000, T1002, T1003, T1019, S5125)

Units on line <=2: Units \*Unit Rate  
Units on line >2 and <=4: Base Rate  
Units on line >4: Base Rate + ((Units-4)\*Unit Rate)

Questions? Contact the Provider Hotline:

(800) 686-1516