



Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
Health Plan Advisory 16-12
June 2, 2016

Hospice: Implementation of New Service Intensity Add-On Rates

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has implemented a new reimbursement rate for more intensive services provided by a registered nurse (RN) or a social worker in the final seven days of a hospice patient's life. In compliance with CMS' regulations, Louisiana Medicaid is taking the following actions in the Hospice program.

Effective for dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2016, a service intensity add-on (SIA) payment will be reimbursable for a visit by an RN (G0299) or a social worker (G0155), when provided during routine home care in the last seven days of a patient's life. The SIA payment is in addition to the routine home care rate.

The Louisiana Medicaid hospice fee schedule has been updated with the current fee-for-service rates according to each Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) for SIA services and the required hospital revenue code (HR659). The claim for SIA services must be billed in units. Each unit is equal to 15 minutes. The maximum number of reimbursable units per day is 16 units. The seven-day maximum number of reimbursable units is 112 units. All claims must be submitted with documentation demonstrating the necessity of the services provided. Documentation submitted should reflect the arrival and departure time of the professional providing the services.

Questions regarding this Health Plan Advisory should be directed to Jairus Methvin at jmethvin@la.gov or (225) 342-1838.