

Public Announcement

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) is filing Vermont Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) #15-029 to change the rates paid for hospice care services, effective October 1, 2015. Payment for hospice services is at a per diem rate, based on Medicare rates which are adjusted for Medicaid and published annually. The fiscal impact of this amendment is an estimated annualized increase in payments of \$9,752.

The Medicaid State Plan is being changed because it is one of the documents that providers rely upon for notice of payment methodologies and rates made by the DVHA. The State Plan is also the guiding document for changes applicable to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The methodology changes in this Announcement will also apply to the Global Commitment (GC) to Health Waiver population. Changes to the GC population are being made pursuant to the flexibility authorized under the GC Waiver, specific to Sections 1902(a)(13) and 1902(a)(30) of the Social Security Act, which allows the State, through DVHA, to establish rates with providers on an individual or class basis without regard to the rates currently set forth in the approved State Plan.

The GC Waiver can be viewed at:

<http://dvha.vermont.gov/administration/global-commitment-to-health-1115-waiver-2015-documents>.

The draft SPAs provide additional details on the proposed changes; copies of the draft SPAs can be requested from local Department for Children and Families (DCF) offices or from DVHA at (802) 879-5937, or can be found on the DVHA website:

<http://dvha.vermont.gov/administration/draft-versions-of-state-plan-changes>

Submit written comments to the DVHA Reimbursement Unit, 312 Hurricane Lane, Suite 201, Williston, VT 05495, or submit via e-mail to AHS.DVHAReimbursement@vermont.gov. Comments must be received no later than 4:00 pm on October 5, 2015. Please reference the SPA number for which you are commenting. The DVHA hopes to post all comments received to the DVHA website for viewing no later than 4:00 pm on October 12, 2015. There is no public meeting scheduled at this time. If one should be scheduled, that information can be found at: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/> either through the calendar or listed under upcoming events.