

Public Announcement

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) will change the rates paid for hospice care services, effective October 1, 2014. 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 these changes is an annualized increase in payments of \$14,143.81.

This Announcement of rate changes to hospice services made by DVHA applies to individuals covered under the State Plan and the Global Commitment (GC) to Health Waiver. The State Plan is also the guiding document for changes applicable to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Choices for Care program, which are not covered by the GC to Health Waiver. 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 the 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/2012-global-commitment-to-health-documents>.

Additional details on the proposed changes 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 Lindsay Parker, DVHA, 312 Hurricane Lane, Suite 201, Williston, VT 05495, or submit via e-mail to lindsay.parker@state.vt.us. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 pm on September 26, 2014. DVHA hopes to post all comments received to the DVHA website for viewing no later than 4:30 pm on September 30, 2014. 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.