



State of Vermont  
Agency of Human Services  
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Williston, VT 05495

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# Global Commitment Register

February 2, 2016

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GCR 15-015  
FINAL

## **Hospice Rates January 2016**

### **Policy Summary:**

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) is filing Vermont Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) #16-001 to update hospice rates to include new payment methodologies. The first methodology change is to allow for a higher daily rate for Routine Home Care provided in the first 60 days of hospice care, followed by a reduced daily rate for Routine Home Care provided after the first 60 days of hospice care. The second methodology change is the creation of a Service Intensity Add-on (SIA) payment for nursing (RN) or social work services provided in the last seven days of life. The SIA will allow up to 16 units of 15-minute increments per day for the last seven days of life. The rate to be paid for the SIA will equal the Continuous Home Care hourly rate. This change is being made in order to align with Medicare regulations.

### **Effective Date:**

January 1, 2016

### **Authority/Legal Basis:**

These changes are being made pursuant to 42 CFR §430.12(c)(1)(ii) under the Medicaid State Plan, which can be found here: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/administration/state-plan>.

### **Population Affected:**

Home Health Agencies providing hospice care; Medicaid beneficiaries receiving hospice care in the home.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

	State Fiscal Year 2016	State Fiscal Year 2017
<b>State</b>	\$18,941	\$37,536
<b>Federal</b>	\$22,145	\$44,636
<b>Total</b>	\$41,086	\$82,172

### **Additional Information:**

The draft SPA provides additional details on the changes. Copies of the draft SPA can be



requested from local Department for Children and Families (DCF) offices or from DVHA at (802) 355-8843, or can be found on the DVHA website: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/global-commitment-to-health/global-commitment-register-proposed-policy-changes>. The final, approved SPA pages will appear in the complete State Plan, available here: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/administration/state-plan>.