



State of Vermont
Agency of Human Services
208 Hurricane Lane, Suite 103
Williston, VT 05495

Global Commitment Register

December 31, 2015

GCR 15-015
PROPOSED

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
State	\$18,941	\$37,536
Federal	\$22,145	\$44,636
Total	\$41,086	\$82,172

Public Comment Period:

December 31, 2015 – January 22, 2016

Send comments to:

AHS Medicaid Policy Unit
208 Hurricane Lane
Williston, VT 05495

Or submit via e-mail to AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov. 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. Comments received will be posted to the DVHA website by February 2, 2016 (link below).

Additional Information:

The draft SPA provides additional details on the proposed 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>.