



## Department of Health

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.**  
Commissioner

**LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 21, 2021

Dear Health Plans:

The purpose of this letter is to provide Health Plans with information regarding the initial hospital Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) inpatient rates, based on the initial Medicaid fee-for-service rates, effective January 1, 2021 for Acute DRG, Exempt Hospitals, Exempt Hospital Units and Chemical Dependency Detoxification services.

**Plans are encouraged to process adjustments according to the terms of their provider contracts with hospitals. This includes any reprocessing that should occur consistent with those agreements.**

These rates are based upon the same methodology and data used in the April 2, 2020 rates but take into consideration the following updates:

- 2021 budgeted capital, as reported by hospitals, and calculated in accordance with Section 8 of Article 2807-c of the Public Health Law.
- Article 19 of NYS Labor Law established new minimum wage increases beginning January 1, 2021. Consequently, the Department of Health has incorporated adjustments to the acute, critical access hospital and specialty hospital rates for applicable hospitals.
- The hospital-specific transition factors have been revised within the Acute discharge rates as a result of a phase-in to the limit on losses and the cap on gains associated with the rebasing of these rates. The budget neutrality factor remained the same.
- Continuation of 2% hospital investment on all eligible operating components of the inpatient rates. As a reminder, those hospitals where the estimated annual Medicaid impact from the 2% operating investment is less than \$75,000, the operating components were not adjusted since lump sum payments are anticipated to be made through Medicaid Fee-for-Service.
- Rate appeals for HealthAlliance Hospital Broadway Campus/HealthAlliance Hospital Mary's Avenue Campus and Albany Memorial Hospital/Samaritan Hospital to reflect merged Acute rates.

For payment of the January 1, 2021 rates, the July 1, 2018 service intensity weights (SIWs), average lengths of stay (ALOS) and cost outlier thresholds should continue to be utilized, as well as the 3M APR-DRG grouper version 34.

Within the enclosed rate schedules, we have included MMC rates and informational Graduate Medical Education (GME) components, for the inpatient services listed below. Also enclosed are payment calculation files that display how each component from the schedules are used in the payment of a Medicaid claim.

- Acute Case Payment (Per Discharge)
- Specialty Hospitals - Long Term Acute Care, Cancer and Children's Hospitals (Per Diem)
- Psychiatric Exempt Unit (Per Diem)
- Psychiatric Adult Dual Diagnosis Exempt Unit (Per Diem)
- Chemical Dependency Rehab Exempt Unit (Per Diem)

- Critical Access Hospitals (Per Diem)
- Medical Rehab Exempt Unit (Per Diem)
- Chemical Dependency Detoxification Exempt Unit (Per Diem) – **separate schedule**

**Acute Care Per Case Rate Schedule** – These are the rate components to be paid to hospitals for acute case payment services:

1. **Default & Contract Discharge Case Payment Rate (Including PHL 2807-c(33) but Excluding GME):** Acute per case payment to be used when a health plan contract is applicable or not applicable. This is the statewide price adjusted by ISAF (Column 3) and transition adjustments (where applicable).
2. **Default & Contract Statewide Base Price (Including PHL 2807-c(33)):** Statewide base price when a health plan contract is applicable or not applicable and is provided for informational purposes only. The statewide price is used in the development of the discharge rate in Column 1.
3. **Institutional Specific Adjustment Factor (ISAF):** Hospital specific adjustment to reflect wage differences (Wage Equalization Factor).
4. **High Cost Charge Converter:** Charge converter to reduce hospital charges for cost outlier payments.
5. **Indirect Medicaid Education Percentage (IME %):** Indirect Medical Education percentage and is provided for informational purposes only.
6. **Direct Medical Education (DME) Add-on:** Direct Medical Education per discharge add-on and is provided for informational purposes only.
7. **Capital Per Discharge (Excluding Non-Comparable Add-ons):** Capital per discharge add-on to be paid after application of SIW to the discharge rate.
8. **Ambulance Add-ons:** Ambulance per discharge add-on to be paid after application of SIW to the discharge rate.
9. **Teaching Election Amendment (TEA) Physicians Add-on:** TEA per discharge add-on to be paid after application of SIW to the discharge rate.
10. **School of Nursing Add-on:** School of Nursing per discharge add-on to be paid after application of SIW to the discharge rate.
11. **Minimum Wage Add-on:** Minimum Wage per discharge add-on to be paid after application of SIW to the discharge rate for those hospitals affected by the minimum wage increases.
12. **Capital Per Diem:** Capital per diem to be used when transfer payment on a per diem basis is being made.
13. **ALC Per Diem:** Alternate Level of Care per diem for those patients who no longer require acute hospital care and are awaiting placement or discharge.
14. **Indigent Care and Health Care Initiatives Surcharge:** Surcharge percentage obligation as authorized by Public Health Law 2807-j.

**Exempt Hospital/Exempt Unit Rate Schedule** – These are the rate components to be used for exempt hospitals or exempt units within a general hospital:

1. **Specialty Acute Hospital Billing Rate (w/out DME):** Per diem rate for specialty long term acute care hospitals, cancer hospitals, and children's hospitals.
2. **Specialty Acute Hospital DME Add-on:** Direct Medical Education per diem for informational purposes only.
3. **Specialty Acute Hospital ALC Per Diem:** Alternate Level of Care per diem for those patients who no longer require specialty acute services and are awaiting placement or discharge.
4. **Psychiatric Billing Rate (age 18 and over):** Operating portion of the billing rate which consists of the statewide price adjusted by an institution specific adjustment factor

(ISAF) and a rural adjustment factor (if applicable). Since individuals age 18 and over are not eligible for an age adjustment factor, this column represents the billing rate without any adjustment for the age factor (or any other adjustment factors related to Mental Retardation or Comorbidities).

- 4a. **Psychiatric Billing Rate (age 17 and under):** Rate from column 5 adjusted by 1.3597 age adjustment factor only (no adjustments related to Mental Retardation or Comorbidities).
5. **Psychiatric Non-Operating Billing Rate (w/out DME):** Capital portion of the billing rate.
6. **Psychiatric DME Add-on:** Direct Medical Education per diem for informational purposes only.
7. **Psychiatric ECT Payment:** Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) add-on (per treatment) which has been adjusted by the same ISAF as the statewide price.
8. **Psychiatric ALC Per Diem Rate:** Alternate Level of Care per diem for those patients who no longer require psychiatric services and are awaiting placement or discharge.
9. **Psychiatric Adult Dual Diagnosis Billing Rate:** Per diem rate for specialized hospital-based inpatient psychiatric units, certified by the Office of Mental Health, solely dedicated to the treatment of adults with diagnosis of both developmental disability and either serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance.
10. **Chemical Dependency Rehabilitation Billing Rate (w/out DME):** Per diem rate for Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation programs which are combined into one service type.
11. **Chemical Dependency Rehabilitation DME Add-on:** Direct Medical Education per diem for informational purposes only.
12. **Chemical Dependency Rehabilitation ALC Per Diem:** Alternate Level of Care per diem for those patients who no longer require Chemical Dependency Rehab services and are awaiting placement or discharge.
13. **Critical Access Hospital Billing Rate (w/out DME):** Per diem rate for those hospitals that are federally designated as Critical Access Hospitals.
14. **Critical Access Hospital ALC Per Diem:** Alternate Level of Care per diem for those patients who no longer require acute care and are awaiting placement or discharge.
15. **Medical Rehabilitation Billing Rate (w/out DME):** Per diem rate for medical rehabilitation services.
16. **Medical Rehabilitation DME Add-on:** Direct Medical Education per diem for informational purposes only.
17. **Medical Rehabilitation ALC Per Diem:** Alternate Level of Care per diem for patients who no longer require medical rehabilitation and are awaiting placement or discharge.
18. **Detox Medically Managed & Medically Supervised Withdrawal Billing Rates:** Per diem rates to be paid to hospitals with certified detox program by OASAS for medically managed/supervised services. These rates are published on a separate schedule.
19. **Indigent Care and Health Care Initiative Surcharge:** Surcharge percentage obligation as authorized by Public Health Law Section 2807-j.

Should you have any questions regarding the above **rate information**, please submit your inquiry to [HospFFSunit@health.ny.gov](mailto:HospFFSunit@health.ny.gov) and either Monique Grimm or Tami Berdi from the hospital fee-for-service rate setting unit will respond. Questions regarding Managed Care **premiums** should be addressed to [bmcr@health.ny.gov](mailto:bmcr@health.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

Michael Dembrosky  
Director  
Bureau of Acute & Managed Care Reimbursement