



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

November 26, 2013

To: Medical Assistance Personal Care Providers

From: Mark A. Leeds, Director 
Long Term Care & Community Support Services

Re: Community First Choice

This memo is to inform you of the changes that will be made to Medical Assistance Personal Care (MAPC). Please note that there will be changes to current billing procedure codes and reimbursement rates for personal assistance services.

As of January 6, 2014, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will be implementing services in the new State Plan Option, Community First Choice (CFC) under the regulatory authority COMAR 10.09.84. CFC will become available for all MAPC participants who meet an institutional level of care. The MAPC program will continue for those participants who do not meet an institutional level of care.

All existing Medicaid providers will be automatically enrolled into the CFC program. Providers do not need to complete a new application, however they will need to complete training for CPR and First Aid certification by March 31, 2014 (unless this requirement is waived by the participant for whom the provider is working). Providers will need to forward this documentation to the Department before that date to maintain enrollment status. Current provider numbers will not change.

Participants will be choosing a supports planner who will help them during the transition between January and March. Until this time, the participant's nurse case monitor will continue to provide support and answer questions. Please be advised that one emphasis of the new CFC program is participant direction. Should a participant choose to self-direct, they will have the ability to recruit, hire, train and supervise their personal assistance providers. Participants will also receive a flexible budget for personal assistance services. Within this budget participants will be able to choose the number of hours of personal assistance they receive as well as the hourly rate that they choose to pay their provider. There will no longer be per diem rates and all providers will be paid based on 15-minute increments.

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For independent providers, the standard hourly rate will be \$12.27 for personal assistance paid to providers. For participants who choose to self-direct, they will have flexibility to set provider payment rates of not less than \$10.22 per hour and not more than \$14.27 per hour. The Department has not yet concluded negotiations with your exclusive representative, AFSCME Council 67, for rates that will be effective July 1, 2014. We anticipate that these negotiations will be concluded shortly and we will notify you, as soon as possible, of any rate increases in the Governor's budget request for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2014.

For agency providers, the rate is \$16.08 per hour.

These rates will apply for CFC and, effective April 1, 2014, the same rates and procedures will apply for providers serving MAPC participants who do not meet an institutional level of care and do not transition into CFC.

Billing will now be done through In-home Supports Assurance System (ISAS), a telephone call-in system that automatically creates timesheets. More information on the training for this system will be mailed in the coming months.

Any questions regarding status of a MAPC participant can be directed to the local health department nurse case monitor assigned to the case. Questions about the program can be sent to the CFC email box at dhmh.cfc@maryland.gov.