

# Provider Bulletin

No. 08-34

October 1, 2008

**TO:** Hospice Providers Participating in the Nebraska Medicaid Program

**FROM:** Vivianne M. Chaumont, Director  
Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care

**BY:** Elaine Westergren, Program Specialist

**RE:** Medicaid Hospice Payment Rates

On September 10, 2008, CMS issued a memorandum on the Medicaid hospice payment rates for the Federal Fiscal Year 2009. This provider bulletin is intended to update providers on these changes. *These new payment rates are effective October 1, 2008.*

## **Hospice Payment Rates**

The Medicaid Hospice payment rates are calculated based on the annual hospice rates established by section 1814(i)(1)(C)(ii) of the Social Security Act which also provides for an annual increase in payment rates for hospice care services. The Hospice Payment Rates beginning October 1, 2008 have changed and are effective for care and services furnished on or after October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. The national payment rates for procedure codes T2042, T2043, T2044, and T2045 for October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009, are listed in the following table:

Procedure Code	Description	Daily Rate	Wage Component Subject to Index	Non-Weighted Amount
T2042	Routine Home Care	\$140.15	\$96.30	\$43.85
T2043	Continuous Home Care	\$34.06/hr	\$23.40/hr	\$10.66/hr
T2044	Inpatient Respite Care	\$152.41	\$82.50	\$69.91
T2045	General Inpatient Care	\$622.66	\$398.56	\$224.10

### ***The Hospice Wage Index***

The Hospice Wage Index is used to adjust payment rates to reflect local differences in wages according to the revised wage index, and is updated annually in accordance with recommendations made by a negotiated rulemaking advisory committee. The Hospice Wage Index is based on Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) codes as listed in Tables A & B of the Federal Register 42 CFR 418.

### ***Additional Billing Instructions***

- Submit the CBSA code corresponding to the state and county of the beneficiary's home in value code 61 on claims that include routine home care or continuous home care (Table A in the Federal Register can be used to identify the appropriate CBSA designations for each county.);
- Hospice providers should split claims if services begin in September and continue into October.
- The updated hospice wage indexes from the Federal Register may be found in the notice at:  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/hospice.asp>

<b>CBSA</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Revised Hospice Wage Index</b>
99928	Nebraska: Rest of State	0.9289
30700	Lincoln	1.0550
36540	Omaha, Council Bluffs, IA-NE	1.0036
43580	Sioux City, IA-NE-SD	0.9711

The Hospice Provider Handbook may be found at:  
<http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/med/phhspsc.htm>

### ***Prior Authorization Requests***

Prior Authorization Requests must be faxed to the Hospice Program Specialist at **(402)-742-8300**.

If you have any questions on the Prior Authorization process or any other information in this bulletin, please call the Hospice Program Specialist, Elaine Westergren, at 402-471-9289.