



May 1, 2020

To CMHPSM Network Providers,

The CMHPSM received bulletin [L 20-27](#) from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The bulletin includes information related to a \$2.00/hour temporary “premium” pay increase for direct care employees and \$0.24/hour employer cost for certain service codes. For our behavioral health system, direct care workers delivering the following services have been identified by MDHHS as being eligible for premium pay from April 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020:

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Unlicensed Community Living Supports	H0043, H2015
Licensed Community Living Supports and Personal Care	H2016, T1020
Prevocational Services	T2015
Skill Building	H2014
Respite	T1005, S5151
Overnight Safety and Support	T2027

We were informed yesterday that our future capitation payment rates will be adjusted to include the revenue needed to support this premium pay increase. We have not yet received the revenue associated with this substantial expense at this time, but have been advised that the rate changes are currently being worked on by MDHHS. We are anxiously awaiting more information but wanted to send out a regional communication related to this premium pay announcement from MDHHS.

Since these changes will need to be implemented retroactively to April 1, 2020 we will need to make adjustments to our electronic health record fee schedules, provider contracts and to claims submitted for services rendered beginning on April 1, 2020. While details are still being worked out, at this point this temporary premium pay increase for this period seems to resemble past direct care wage increases in FY18 and FY19. We anticipate that the reporting requirements will be like those FY18 and FY19 wage increases and providers will need to document similarly.

Providers that wish to begin implementing this temporary premium pay increase immediately (prior to any changes in reimbursement or additional guidance from the CMHPSM payers) should be mindful of this MDHHS directive from L 20-27: *These amounts are to be paid in addition to the wage the direct care worker was earning since April 1, 2020, and recorded separately from base pay. The \$2.00 per hour Premium Pay must be applied entirely to direct care worker wages.*

We do hope that our action late last month to push out additional revenue to the providers delivering certain services was helpful to your organizations and your employees during this turbulent time. We hope to have more information in the very near future on any steps your organization will need to take related to this well-deserved premium temporary pay increase for your staff persons. We will provide an update with the most current information as soon as we can but no later than Friday, May 8, 2020.

Sincerely,

James Colaianne
CMHPSM CEO