

FEDERAL MEDICAID NOTICE
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAID

Pursuant to 42 CFR 447.204 and 42 CFR 447.205, the director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid (department) gives notice of the Department's intent to modify payment for hospice services to align with Medicare's hospice payment methodology.

Beginning with Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 and each subsequent FFY, the Department's hospice payment methodology is being modified to increase the payment reduction penalty from two to four percentage points for any hospice provider that does not comply with the federal quality data submission requirements. This change is being implemented to align with changes made under the final Medicare hospice rule published on August 2, 2023 (CMS-1787-F).

Medicaid hospice payment rates are based on the annual hospice rates established under Medicare and these rates are authorized by section 1814(i)(C)(ii) of the Social Security Act (the Act). Section 3004 of the Affordable Care Act amended the Act to authorize a Medicare quality reporting program for hospices. The department has chosen to implement an increase in the payment reduction penalty from two to four percentage points, beginning with FFY 2025 and each subsequent FFY. The four percentage-point payment reduction is reflected in categories of hospice care, including routine home care, continuous home care, inpatient respite, and general inpatient care.

Implementation of this change in hospice payment methodology is expected to decrease annual aggregate expenditures for hospice services by approximately \$14,800.

Any person may examine and obtain a copy of the proposed rule(s), without charge, at the following locations:

Ohio Department of Medicaid, 50 West Town Street, Fourth Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215;
Any county department of job and family services; or
On the internet at <http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us> by searching Ohio Administrative Code rule 5160-56-06.

Written comments regarding these changes may be sent to the Ohio Department of Medicaid, Attn.: Bureau of Long Term Services and Supports, 50 West Town Street, Fifth Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414 and may be reviewed at the same location. Comments may also be provided by e-mail at the following address: MCDHospice@Medicaid.ohio.gov. Comments must be received by October 7, 2024.

In addition to seeking general comments regarding the proposed changes, the department invites Medicaid recipients, providers and other affected stakeholders to provide input regarding how the proposed changes discussed in this notice may affect recipients' access to care. These comments may be submitted by mail to the department to the attention of Bureau of Long Term Services and Supports, at the above street address, or provided by e-mail at the above e-mail address, no later than October 7, 2024.

ODM is committed to providing access and inclusion and reasonable accommodation in its services, activities, programs, and employment opportunities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, and other applicable laws. To request an interpreter, written information in a language other than English or in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats), or a reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact ODM's Civil Rights/ADA Coordinator at 614-995-9981/TTY 711, Fax 1-614-644-1434, or Email: ODM_EEO_EmployeeRelations@medicaid.ohio.gov. If you believe ODM has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way, you can file a grievance with ODM's Civil Rights Coordinator and/or file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. Further information on these processes and ODM's compliance with civil rights and other applicable laws can be found here: [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).