

## **Chapter 121. Reimbursement**

### **§12101. Reimbursement Methodology**

A. Case management services shall be reimbursed at a flat monthly rate billed for each waiver participant served in accordance with the conditions and procedures contained in the Case Management Services provider manual.

B. Direct service providers shall be reimbursed according to the following reimbursement methodology. Actual rates will be published in the children's choice provider manual and will be subsequently amended by direct notification to the affected providers. For services provided by a subcontractor agency, the enrolled direct service provider shall coordinate and reimburse the subcontractor according to the terms of the contract and retain the administrative costs.

1. Family support, crisis support, center-based respite, aquatic therapy, art therapy, music therapy, sensory integration, and hippotherapy/therapeutic horseback riding services shall be reimbursed at a flat rate per 15-minute unit of service, which covers both service provision and administrative costs.

2. Family training shall be reimbursed at cost.

3. Environmental accessibility adaptations and specialized medical equipment and supplies shall be reimbursed at cost plus a set administrative add-on per project.

## 4. Direct Support Professionals Wage Enhancement.

a. Effective February 9, 2007, an hourly wage enhancement payment in the amount of \$2 will be reimbursed to providers for full-time equivalent (FTE) direct support professionals who provide family support services to children's choice participants.

b. Effective May 20, 2007, an hourly wage enhancement payment in the amount of \$2 will be reimbursed to providers for full-time equivalent (FTE) direct support professionals who provide center-based respite services to children's choice participants.

c. At least 75 percent of the wage enhancement shall be paid in the aggregate to direct support workers as wages. If less than 100 percent of the enhancement is paid in wages, the remainder, up to 25 percent shall be used to pay employer-related taxes, insurance and employee benefits.

d. Effective September 20, 2007, the minimum hourly rate paid to direct support professionals shall be the federal minimum wage in effect on February 20, 2007 plus 75 percent of the wage enhancement or the current federal minimum wage, whichever is higher.

e. Providers shall be required to submit a certified wage register to the Department verifying the direct support professionals' gross wages for the quarter ending June 30, 2005. The wage register will be used to establish a payroll baseline for each provider. It shall include the following information:

i. gross wage paid to the direct support professional(s);

ii. total number of direct support hours worked; and

iii. the amount paid in employee benefits.

f. A separate report shall be submitted for paid overtime.

g. The provider shall submit quarterly wage reports that verify that the 75 percent wage enhancement has been paid to the appropriate staff.

h. The provider shall submit a report, according to the Department's specifications, that will be used to measure the effectiveness of the wage enhancement.

i. The wage enhancement payments reimbursed to providers shall be subject to audit by the Department.

j. Noncompliance or failure to demonstrate that the wage enhancement was paid directly to direct support professionals may result in:

i. forfeiture of eligibility for wage enhancement payments;

ii. recoupment of previous wage enhancement payments;

iii. Medicaid fraud charges; and

iv. disenrollment in the Medicaid Program.

C. Effective for dates of service on or after January 22, 2010, the reimbursement rates for children's choice waiver services shall be reduced by 4.75 percent of the rates on file as of January 21, 2010.

1. Support coordination services and environmental accessibility adaptations shall be excluded from this rate reduction.

D. Effective for dates of service on or after August 1, 2010, the reimbursement rates for children's choice waiver services shall be reduced by 2 percent of the rates in effect on July 31, 2010.

1. The following items shall be excluded from the rate reduction:

a. environmental accessibility adaptations;

b. family training services; and

c. support coordination services.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 28:1987 (September 2002), LR 33:1872 (September 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 34:250 (February 2008), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, LR 36:324 (February 2010), LR 36:2280 (October 2010), LR 37:2157 (July 2011), LR 39:2504 (September 2013), LR 40:68 (January 2014), LR 41:128 (January 2015).