

The April 27, 2020, Provider Notice to nursing agencies described approved changes to the Home Care Program during the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes protect the health and safety of the participants and the nurses who provide in-home services. The approved initiatives are also included in Appendix K at:

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/ILCombinedAppendixKAmendment05122020.pdf>

As stated in the notice, the State will cover the cost of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- PPE will be billed as a separate service under special medical equipment and supplies, using CPT Code E0700, Safety equipment device or accessory, in addition to the modifier CR-Catastrophic Disaster Related.
- It will cover gloves, masks, gowns, hand sanitizer and bleach.

#### Rates Follow:

- Nursing agencies: \$16/day per participant currently staffed.

PPE services are covered as a separate cost from nursing. Therefore, these services do not count towards the resource allocation.

As a reminder, shifts billed for a retainer fee that would have been staffed do not qualify for PPE reimbursement.

The agencies should maintain all supporting documentation in the case of a future audit. Since federal and state funds are providing the PPE services, it is important that the nursing agency has supporting documentation and remains accountable for what is being billed.

#### PPE Record Requirements:

Per the *Handbook for Providers of Medical Services*, providers must maintain any and all professional records that relate to the quality of care given by the provider or when service is provided for which payment is claimed. These records are subject to review and should be made available upon request.

**Effective immediately**, nursing agencies must maintain records for PPE supplies provided to each participant. Information should be specific for each individual participant and should include:

- Description of supplies provided.
- Specific dates the supplies were provided.

Please see the attached example to assist in maintaining the record requirements.

Records should be available as requested by DSCC Home Care Quality and Improvement (HCQI) to ensure compliance for in-home services provided, PPE supplied, and claims submitted.

Thank you for your cooperation and for the services you provide to the children enrolled in the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services Home Care Program.

If you have any questions, please contact your DSCC nursing agency liaison.