

Division of Specialized Care for Children

Provider Notice

DATE: 1/22/2025

Dear Home Nursing Agency,

As discussed in the Nursing Agency Provider Notice on 12/19/2024 (linked <u>here</u>), the rate increase that was legislatively approved for 1/1/2025 has still not received all of the needed Federal approvals to be implemented. After hearing feedback from numerous nursing agencies, also considering the impact of the new DSCC claims software, and the uncertain approval time, we have discussed a plan with HFS to resume payments at the 2024 approved rates.

Beginning today DSCC will begin working to covert our claims system back to the 2024 rates. This is expected to take 2-3 weeks. After the system is ready an updated provider notice will be sent out providing you information on submitting claims that have been held since 1/1/2025. These services are to be billed at and will be paid at the 2024 rates.

- In-home shift nursing (RN) and Respite (RN) rates \$54.00 an hour.
- In-home shift nursing (LPN) and Respite (LPN) rates \$45.00 an hour.
- CNA and Respite (CNA) rates \$30.00 an hour.
- Respite out-of-home rate \$54.00 an hour.
- Nurse Training (RN) rate \$54.00 an hour.
- Nurse Training (LPN) rate \$45.00 an hour.
- Family Training rate \$50.00 an hour.

DSCC will work as quickly as possible to issue payments backlogged from this timeframe.

The timing of this new rate increase and the delay in needed Federal approvals has been challenging with the implementation of DSCC's new claims payment system. As previously noted on the Nursing Agency Provider notice posted on 11/21/2024, DSCC will have to have a temporary delay in claims payment as part of the transition between systems. This was planned to begin 2/1/2025 and will now be delayed until a later date (it will be this spring, more info to come soon). Please continue to prepare for this.

If the needed Federal approvals for the rate increase come through, DSCC will first work to adjust the payment amount for new claims received and will then work to address any retroactive payments that may be due to the nursing agencies. The process of working to provide retroactive payments is complex. Nursing agencies submitting inaccurate claims that require correction will complicate this process and can potentially further delay payment. **Please ensure you submit claims only for services you have verified have been provide**.

A provider notice will be sent out after the approvals have been received providing guidance on when to begin billing at the 2025 rates.

DSCC is happy to assist with any questions you may have. Please contact your DSCC Nursing Agency Liaison or the DSCC Claims Department contact at <u>DSCCClaimsServices@uic.edu</u>. We thank you for your continued service to the participants of the Home Care Program.