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Attn: Nursing Facilities (NFs), Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs), and PNMI Providers

May 29, 2020

This is a follow up from our [April 17, 2020](#) and [May 1, 2020](#) notices regarding the temporary rate increases (TRIs) for congregate care facilities from March 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This communication:

- Confirms the expiration of the TRIs on May 31, 2020 for services incurred after that date.
- Provides a cost settlement timeline extension update for NFs, ICFs, PNMI Appendix C, E, and F providers.
- Announces the availability under certain sections of policy of an increased reimbursement allowance effective June 1, 2020 for facilities that experience a COVID-19 outbreak.

All providers who received a Temporary Rate Increase for services incurred between March 1, 2020 and May 31, 2020:

The temporary rate increase will expire for services incurred after May 31, 2020. In consideration of federal resources for COVID-19 support and State budgetary constraints, the Department has decided not to extend the temporary rate increases.

Please note that providers have been billing for these rate increases at a slower rate than the Department anticipated. To date, only about half of the planned funds have been paid to providers. We ask that providers bill for services delivered between March 1, 2020 and May 31, 2020 at the increased rates as soon as feasible, to help ensure timely support for COVID-19 expenses and so that funds can be expended this State Fiscal Year, which ends June 30, 2020.

If you have any questions about billing at the increased rates, please contact MaineCare Provider Services at 1-866-690-5585 or your [Provider Relations Specialist](#).

Cost Settlement Update for NFs, ICFs, and PNMI Appendix C, E, F Providers:

The temporary rate increases for these services will expire on May 31, 2020. However, we are extending the time period to incur [allowable costs](#) associated with the rate increases for an additional 30 days, until June 30, 2020. This extension will give providers additional support as they continue to respond to the pandemic and provide high-quality care for their residents.

- **NFs, ICFs, and Appendix C and F PNMI:** We intend to cost settle in the 30 days after the period for allowable costs related to the temporary rate increases ends on June 30, 2020. Providers will thus have until July 31 to submit their reconciliation report. The Department will provide additional reconciliation report guidance. The financial reconciliation must document the actual

costs incurred for COVID-19-related expenditures compared to the temporary rate increase payments received. We will review the submissions for reasonableness and necessity of the expenditures and settle on any under/overpayment within 45 days from when cost reports are due, between August 1 to September 15, 2020.

- **Appendix E PNMI:** The TRI will be reconciled at the time of your regular audit. The cap on your total revenue will also be increased at the time of audit to allow for the TRI.

Update for PNMI, Appendix B and D Providers (not cost-settled)

- **Appendix B PNMI:** The TRI for these services will expire on May 31, 2020.
- **Appendix D PNMI:** The temporary Room and Board rate increases for these services will expire on May 31, 2020. In order to receive the increase for children who are NOT in state custody, PNMI Appendix D providers will need to bill the Room and Board TRI amount for services provided during the period of March 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020 by June 15, 2020. Room and Board claims submitted beyond June 15, 2020 for services provided between March 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020 will revert to the regular OCFS Room and Board rate of \$54.45.

Providers of Appendix B and D PNMI services are asked to respond to a [brief survey](#) related to their use of TRI funds by May 31, 2020, if they have not already done so.

Increased Reimbursement Allowance for COVID-19 Outbreaks

In acknowledgement that the temporary rate increases are ending as scheduled, but the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the Department will allow NFs, ICFs, and PNMI Appendix C, E, F providers that experience a COVID-19 outbreak at a facility after June 1, 2020 to request increased reimbursement following the outbreak to cover increased costs related to the outbreak. An outbreak is defined as three or more epidemiologically-linked positive COVID cases, across staff and/or residents, in one location. Reimbursement under this provision will be capped at an amount equivalent to the expiring TRI amount. The reimbursement will be available for the specific days that the facility experiences the outbreak.

The Department will provide additional guidance and information to applicable facilities as needed. The Department does not currently have the state or federal authority necessary to provide increased reimbursement for outbreak situations for Appendix B and D facilities. The Department is exploring whether this support may also be an option for these facilities and will provide an update at a later time.