

DHHS Budget Initiative – Reimbursement for Leave Days

Reimbursement for Leave Days

Currently, MaineCare reimburses institutions at a reduced rate for hospital and therapeutic leave days. Under this policy (outlined below), facilities receive payment, less than the normal bed rate, for days when the MaineCare enrollee is not present in the institution and receiving care. Leave days can be either for a hospital or therapeutic leave.

Facility Type	Current MaineCare Reimbursement Policy
Nursing Facility Section 67	10 hospital leave days 36 therapeutic leave days
IMD	10 hospital leave days 36 therapeutic leave days
ICF/DD Section 50	25 hospital leave days 52 therapeutic leave days

Initiative

This initiative reduces cost in the MaineCare budget by ending reimbursement from MaineCare for leave days.

This initiative was proposed by the MaineCare Redesign Task Force, which made a recommendation for this initiative as a short-term cost savings measure. The MaineCare Redesign Task Force was created in 2012 by State legislative mandate and tasked with finding savings in the MaineCare program.

Savings:

Year	State	Federal	Total
SFY 13	\$160,000	\$328,550	\$488,550
SFY 14	\$640,000	\$1,035,831	\$1,675,831
SFY 15	\$640,000	\$1,024,500	\$1,664,500

Impact

- Provider impact
 - No reimbursement for empty beds
- Member impact
 - Potential for lack of beds in facilities
 - Potential for longer hospital stay

Public comment: During the Task Force meetings, this initiative received public comment. There was concern expressed that if the leave were eliminated an individual needing a bed would not have a place to return to if hospitalized, going home for weekends, etc. Members also questioned the savings if individuals were forced to stay in more acute settings when an alternative bed is not available. Another concern was that DHHS not pay for two beds.