



Pediatric Home Health Care Amendment #609 – Rep. Michael Brady

Language: “; provided further that for purposes of providing convenient, efficient, and cost-effective health services to children in the home setting, the Division of Health Care Finance & Policy shall amend the formula used to determine continuous skilled nursing care rates for single and multi-patient home health service pursuant to chapter 118G of the General Laws by attributing no less than 30 percent of the rate to the indirect cost component used to determine payment to agencies; and no more than 10 percent of the rate to the indirect cost component used to determine payment to an individual practitioner.

~MassHealth Managed Care Account (4000-0500)

Summary:

- This amendment does not increase any rate, but merely shifts existing payment recognizing a home health agency's administrative requirements over that of independent practitioners.

Background:

- The children that need hourly nursing care often times need continuous trach care, depend on ventilators to breathe, and/or are administered their nutrition through a central line or g-tube.
- The current payment per hour to an agency for a pediatric patient is \$45.48
- The median hourly rate for a Hospital RN in Massachusetts is **\$34.38 per hour**. The median hourly rate for a homecare RN providing hourly care is **\$28.00 per hour**.
- The difference in the two rates above makes it very difficult for pediatric agencies to attract quality candidates and cover their operational costs.
- Keeping these young patients at home with skilled caregivers and avoiding hospital admissions, saves costs as does teaching young patients and their parents/family how to properly manage their conditions.
- Agencies are able to respond to patient needs that arise much more quickly than an independent nurse. Many of the most acute patients receive in excess of 80 hours of service per week relying on multiple nurses to care for the patient. This complexity necessitates an acute focus on care coordination.

NURSE INDICTED IN FRAUDULENT BILLING CASE

(Courtesy; State House News Service, Dec. 19, 2012)

A nurse from Sandisfield was indicted Wednesday for allegedly stealing more than \$25,000 from MassHealth by fraudulently billing for nursing care at times when she attended horse racing competitions out of state, according to Attorney General Martha Coakley's office. Robin Annecharico, 49, is accused of billing MassHealth, the state's Medicaid program, for the care of three children in Housatonic while she attended or participated in barrel racing competitions in Georgia, Mississippi and Virginia. She also billed MassHealth for services on holidays when she was not working, according to the AG's office. Annecharico allegedly fabricated detailed daily patient treatment and medication records and provided these to investigators and a Berkshire County grand jury in an attempt to cover up the fraud. Annecharico was charged with six counts of larceny over \$250, six counts of Medicaid false claims, perjury by written attestation and two counts of obstruction. Her arraignment is not yet scheduled. – C. Quinn/SHNS

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