

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION-PUBLIC NOTICE

1. **Name of the Agency:** Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
2. **The topic of the public information notice:** AHCCCS Fee-For-Service (FFS) proposed rates for Hospice effective January 1, 2016.
3. **The public information relating to the topic:**
  - a. This Notice of Public Information describes proposed changes to the AHCCCS FFS rates for Hospice to be effective January 1, 2016.

The AHCCCS Administration is proposing that the Hospice per diem rates be updated to differentiate payments for Routine Home Care (RHC) based on the member's length of stay. The revision to the RHC per diem rates will result in a higher payment rate for the first 60 days of hospice care and a reduced payment rate for days 61 and beyond of hospice care. For purposes of counting the days, the reimbursement calculation will account for all the days in the episode of care, even where the episode of care began prior to January 1, 2016.

In addition to the changes to the per diem rates for RHC, a Service Intensity Add-On (SIA) payment will be established for services provided by a registered nurse or social worker during the last seven days of a member's life. The SIA payment is in addition to the RHC per diem rate. The SIA payment will be equal to the Continuous Home Care hourly rate multiplied by the hours of nursing or social work provided (up to 4 hours per day) that occurred on the day of service. CMS is expected to create HCPCS codes for use when billing for the SIA.

The AHCCCS Administration estimates that the proposed changes to the hospice rates will result in a fiscal impact of \$94,500 for the period January 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016.

- b. These changes are being made in order to comply with Federal Regulation 42 CFR Part 418.
- c. Written comments may be sent to the following address and must be received no later than 5:00 PM on December 30, 2015:  
  
Meggan Harley  
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System  
701 E. Jefferson St. Phoenix, Arizona 85034
- d. More information regarding these changes to reimbursement can be obtained from the AHCCCS website at: <http://www.azahcccs.gov/commercial/ProviderBilling/rates/Hospicerates.aspx>.
- e. Many public libraries offer access to the internet. In addition, the information can be obtained at the Offices of the AHCCCS Administration, 701 E. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85034.
- f. The Notice of Public Information regarding these proposed changes to rates is expected to be published in the Arizona Administrative Register on or before December 18, 2015.