

<b>STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BDS GENERAL MEMORANDUM (GM)</b>	
<b>DATE:</b>	12/22/2023
<b>TO:</b>	Area Agencies, Medicaid Enrolled Developmental Services Providers
<b>FROM:</b>	Melissa Hardy, Director, Division of Long Term Supports and Services
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	New Hampshire House Bill 2 (HB2) Medicaid Rate Increase for In Home Supports (IHS), Developmental Disabilities (DD), and Acquired Brain Disorder (ABD) Waivers
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	January 1, 2024
<b>REGULATORY GUIDANCE:</b>	This memo is a communication tool circulated for informational purposes only. The goal is to provide information and guidance to the individuals to whom it is addressed. The contents of this memo and the information conveyed are subject to change. This communication is not intended to take the place of or alter written law, regulations, or rule.

<b>MEMORANDUM SUMMARY</b>
The purpose of the memorandum is to notify Area Agencies and Medicaid enrolled Developmental Services Providers of the HB2 Medicaid rate increase for the IHS, DD and ABD Waivers and how this rate increase will be implemented.

The 2023 New Hampshire HB2 appropriated funds for increasing Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid rates paid to service providers. Rates shall be increased effective 1/1/24. The Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) has also applied rate increases to some independently determined rates as outlined in this memorandum.

Please refer to the attached *BDS Waiver Procedure Codes and Rates Effective 1/1/24*, that outlines the new rates that will be effective for 1/1/24.

**Waiver Services Rate Increase**

The HB2 rate increase will apply to the following service categories:

**DD/ABD Waiver:**

<b>Service Category</b>	<b>Rate Changes Effective 1/1/24</b>
Service Coordination	\$301.49
Residential Habilitation	DD: If the current unit rate is between \$1 and \$471.16, a 7% rate increase will be applied.

	<p>ABD: If the current unit rate is between \$1 and \$520.31, a 7% rate increase will be applied.</p> <p>DD/ABD independent rates: The current independent unit rate shall receive up to a 7% increase, up to a cap of \$751.34 per unit.</p>
Community Participation Services (Day Habilitation)	<p>DD/ABD: If the current unit rate is between \$1 and \$8.61, a 7% rate increase will be applied.</p> <p>DD/ABD independent rates: The current independent unit rate shall receive up to a 7% increase, up to a cap of \$13.76 per unit.</p>
Supported Employment (SEP)	<p>DD: If the current unit rate is between \$1 and \$6.91, a 7% rate increase will be applied.</p> <p>ABD: If the current unit rate is between \$1 and \$5.95, a 7% rate increase will be applied.</p> <p>DD/ABD independent rates: The current independent unit rate shall receive up to a 7% increase up to a cap of \$14.59 per unit.</p>
Community Support Services (CSS)	<p>DD/ABD CSS level one: \$7.00 per unit.</p> <p>DD/ABD CSS level two: \$8.05 per unit.</p>
Respite	<p>DD Respite level one: \$2.90 per unit.</p> <p>ABD Respite level one: \$2.45 per unit.</p> <p>DD/ABD Respite Behavioral/Medical: \$4.67 per unit.</p>
Crisis Response Services	DD/ABD: \$7.79 per unit.
Consolidated PDMS	See information below.
Specialty Services Level (SSL)1 and 2	<p>DD/ABD :</p> <p>SSL 1 (15-minute rate): \$26.89.</p> <p>SSL 1 (30-minute rate): \$53.77 (only for current SA's that were extended past 7/1/23).</p> <p>SSL 2 (15-minute rate): \$41.83.</p> <p>SSL 2 (30-minute rate): \$83.64 (only for current SA's that were extended past 7/1/23).</p>
Specialty Service START Center	\$754.89 per unit.
Specialty Services START Clinical	\$6,450.55
Non-Medical Transportation	Per trip: \$9.47.
HRST	\$117.15

**IHS Waiver:**

<b>Service Category</b>	<b>Rate Changes Effective 1/1/24</b>
Service Coordination	\$301.49

Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources, and Treatment (START) Clinical	\$6,450.55
Non-Medical Transportation	Per trip: \$9.47.
HRST	\$117.15

The HB2 rate increase will not apply to the following service categories:

**IHS/DD/ABD Waiver (including PDMS method of service delivery):**

- Specialty Services Assessment/Consultation
- Environmental Modifications
- Personal Emergency Response Systems
- Individual Goods and Services
- Assistive Technology
- Community Integration Services
- Wellness Coaching
- Non-Medical transportation per mile

**Participant Directed and Managed Services (DD/ABD Waiver and In Home Support):**

- All PDMS service authorizations (SAs) that are in Approved, BDS Review Pending, MAR, MIN statuses, for case management that are entered in NH Easy as of 4:00 pm on 12/22/23 with a start date on or after 1/1/24 will be updated using the new rate.
- PDMS SAs will not be changed for the rate increase.
- PDMS SAs can continue to be submitted as usual.
- Service coordinators will work in partnership with the Fiscal Management Service entity (Area Agency) to update the individualized PDMS budget to reflect the appropriate rate increase based on remaining funds available for each appropriate service category from 1/1/24 to the end date of the original SA.
- For PDMS DD/ABD, if the current cost per unit is within the independent rate range (above the fee-based rate range), up to a 7% increase may be considered to not exceed the caps identified in the table above.
- For IHS, In Home Residential Habilitation and Respite services shall receive up to a 7% increase on remaining funds available for each appropriate service category from 1/1/24 to the end date of the original SA.
- The renewal PDMS/IHS budget will reflect the appropriate annual rate increase upon the new waiver eligibility period as usual.

**Service Authorization System Updates:**

- Non-PDMS/IHS SAs that are subject to the rate increase that are entered into NH Easy on or before 4:00 pm on 12/22/23 with a service period that spans past 1/1/24 or with a start date on or after 1/1/24 will be systemically updated and adjusted accordingly for the rate increase.

- SAs that meet the criteria above and are entered in NH Easy as Approved, BDS Review Pending, Manual Action Required (MAR) or More Information Needed (MIN) will be included for the rate conversion.
- SAs with a status of Draft, Denied, Void, Withdrawn or Closed will be excluded for the rate conversion.
- SAs that span past 1/1/24 will be end dated on 12/31/23. A new SA will be created starting 1/1/24 with the same end date as the original SA.
- SAs entered in NH Easy as of 12/22/23 with a start date on or after 1/1/24 will be updated using the new rates.
- A standard proration will be used to include the appropriate units on the 1/1/24 SA. The standard proration is # Days on New SA (Total Original Units / Total Original SA Days).
- The formula will round down for the SA ending on 12/31/23 and round up for the SA effective 1/1/24.
- If the paid units are less than calculated units for the original SA (end dated 12/31/23), the standard prorated split will still be used.
- If the pro-rated units for the original SA and the paid units equals or exceeds calculated units, the original SA will have the total number of paid units. Any remaining units will be added to the new SA.
- If all units on the existing SA are paid, the existing SA will be end dated 12/31/2023 and no new SA will be created. There will be no proration.
- For the following service categories, service coordinators are asked *not* to submit any new SAs after 4:00 pm on 12/22/23, through 1/3/24, with a start date prior to 12/31/23 that span past 1/1/24, or those with a service start date on or after 1/1/24. Service coordinators can still enter these SAs but will need to keep them in draft status.

**DD/ABD Waiver:**

- Case management
- Residential
- Day Habilitation
- Supported Employment
- Community Support Services
- Respite
- Crisis Response Services
- Consolidated PDMS
- Specialty Services Level 1 and 2
- Specialty Service START Center
- Specialty Services START Clinical
- Non-Medical Transportation per trip
- SAs for the above categories that will end prior to 12/31/23 can still be entered after 12/22/23.
- For the following service categories, service coordinators can continue to submit SAs:

**DD/ABD Waiver:**

- Specialty Services Assessment/Consultation
- Environmental Modifications

- Personal Emergency Response Systems
  - Individual Goods and Services
  - Assistive Technology
  - Community Integration Services
  - Wellness Coaching
  - Non- Medical transportation per mile
- As of 1/1/2024, any SAs entered for pre-1/1/2024 rates need to be split, one SA for dates on or before 12/31/2023 using old rates, another SA for dates on or after 1/1/2024 with new rates.
  - Only one provider acknowledgement form will be required when submitting a split SA.
  - Two budget face sheets must be provided for all SAs (including PDMS and IHS); one budget face sheet that reflects the annual budget for services provided through 12/31/23 and another budget face sheet for the annual budget for services provided after 1/1/24.

Upon receipt of this memo, providers are asked to ensure their billing staff/trading partners are informed of the 1/1/24 rate increases for all identified services.

Due to the significant volume of SA notices produced during this process, providers may want to turn off receipt of paper notices in MMIS. The notices continue to be available in the provider's MMIS Message Center inbox and can be printed by the provider if needed. To turn off receipt of paper notices:

- Contact Conduent Provider Relations by email at [nhproviderrelations@conduent.com](mailto:nhproviderrelations@conduent.com) or by phone at 866-291-1674. Request to change the delivery method for receiving Service Authorizations letters to the Message Center Inbox.
- Verify that the "Provider-Service Authorizations" role has been added to the NH MMIS User IDs through your organization administrator. Only users with this role can access the SA letters.

For questions regarding billing and claims payment, please contact Conduent Provider Relations at 866-291-1674 or by email at [nhproviderrelations@conduent.com](mailto:nhproviderrelations@conduent.com). For other questions regarding the 1/1/24 rate increase, please contact [bds@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:bds@dhhs.nh.gov).