FEATURE ARTICLE

CMS to Bolster Payments for At-Home COVID-19 Vaccinations for Medicare Beneficiaries

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today announced an additional payment amount for administering in-home COVID-19 vaccinations to Medicare beneficiaries who have difficulty leaving their homes or are otherwise hard-to-reach.

There are approximately 1.6 million adults 65 or older who may have trouble accessing COVID-19 vaccinations because they have difficulty leaving home.

To better serve Medicare beneficiaries who have great difficulty leaving their homes or face a taxing effort getting around their communities easily to access vaccination in these settings, Medicare will pay an additional $35 per dose for COVID-19 vaccine administration in a beneficiary’s home, increasing the total payment amount for at-home vaccination from approximately $40 to approximately $75 per vaccine dose. For a two-dose vaccine, this results in a total payment of approximately $150 for the administration of both doses, or approximately $70 more than the current rate.

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TOP STORIES

Implementing Mandatory COVID-19 Testing Policy

From our partners at Polsinelli
As COVID-19 vaccinations rates increase and COVID-19 related restrictions ease across the country, many homecare employers find themselves with two new but related challenges:

1. more clients are requesting only vaccinated caregivers; and
2. more facilities where clients reside are restricting access to only those who are vaccinated.

So is now the time to implement a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination program or deploy incentives as part of a voluntary vaccination program? This question is particularly timely given that on Friday, May 28, the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) issued updated guidance on vaccination programs (spoiler alert: you can provide incentives to employees to voluntarily provide documentation or other confirmation of receiving a vaccination).

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Great Private Duty Content at the 2021 Financial Management Conference

The Financial Management Conference (FMC) is the only conference designed for executives and financial professionals in home care and we’re excited to offer even more content this year for our private duty home care community.

Click on the links below to learn more about private duty-focused programming at FMC 2021.

204. Private Duty and Medicare Advantage
404. Diversifying Lines of Business Into Private Duty
503. Build Connected Teams During A Crisis: Leading with Excellence
603. Develop an Engaged Workforce: Resources for Recruitment, Retention and Leadership
704. Staffing a Private Duty Home Care Agency

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Policymakers Debate $400 Billion Boost to HCBS

While it is impossible to determine with certainty whether President Biden’s proposal to increase funding for Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) by $400 billion will ultimately be included in one of a number of expected large legislative packages, NAHC is encouraged by recent signaling that the HCBS boost continues to be a priority for the Administration.

The latest indication of support for the increased HCBS funding was its inclusion in the President’s FY2022 budget, released on Friday, May 28th. The budget asks Congress to appropriate the $400 billion investment in HCBS over 10 years, the same proposal Biden has been pushing for as part of his infrastructure-focused American Jobs Plan.

Please Participate in the 2021-2022 Home Care Salary & Benefits Study

The published results cover marketplace data for 60 jobs and 21 fringe benefits. The results cover job data by salary, hourly, and per visit rates with data breakouts by auspice, revenue size, region, state, and CBSA. Planned salary increases, turnover, caseload, and shift differential data are also covered.

NAHC encourages all members to participate in the Home Care Salary & Benefits Study so that the information will be as comprehensive and helpful as possible. In addition, if you participate, you get a 50 percent discount on the price. You can’t beat that.
The State of Patient Experience 2021

Transforming the Human Experience

Jason A. Wolf, PhD, CPXP - President & CEO, The Beryl Institute

Following a year like we have never experienced before, we continued a now decade-long tradition of asking the community about how their efforts to address, improve and elevate the patient experience continue to develop. Since 2011, we have watched a concept with deep roots in patients' rights and advocacy, service excellence and satisfaction establish itself as a profession. Reinforced by a formal body of knowledge and a growing foundation of evidence and research, patient experience is now a recognized field of practice supported by a diverse and rich community of professionals and clinicians, patients, family members and care partners who stood together in leading this growth. The state of patient experience is a story we have now been telling for over 10 years. But more so, it is a story each of you have been part of building.

As we look at the data from our 2021 inquiry, key headlines emerge and critical trends are revealed. The information in this report is provided in a way to broadly inform you but also in a way you can grab hold of and use in pieces and parts to support your efforts, build your strategies, reinforce your business cases and underline your commitments. We will speak to the priorities and focus on experience, the evolution of experience structures and the impact that experience continues to have.

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Pre-Order the 2021 Home Care Benchmarking Study (We've got a discount code!)

The Benchmarking Study from Home Care Pulse is the home care industry’s most comprehensive national study — featuring over 175+ insights and benchmarks inside six categories: Sales & Marketing, Recruitment & Retention, Finance, Operations, Technology, and Client & Caregiver Experience.

A few insights that you can look forward to are:

- Which recruitment sources yielded the most caregivers in 2020
- Data on what kinds of benefits and training other agencies are offering
- Analysis on how COVID-19 impacted home care over the last 14 months and how other agencies’ operations have been affected
- A full financial analysis showing the average expenses that other agencies are paying, broken out by state and size of agency
- Hiring analysis showing how many of their applicants other agencies are hiring

RESOURCES

The Human Experience 2020: Vision for the Future of Health Care - The Beryl Institute

Littler Operational Guidelines for the Home Care Industry Amid COVID 19 - Littler Mendelson, P.C.

Private Duty Home Care at NAHC is a fully integrated service line of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice focused on Leadership, Education, Advocacy, and Innovation exclusively for the private duty home care community.

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