

# Provider Update



## Effective January 1, 2016: hospice services billing changes

**Summary of change:** Effective with dates of service on or after January 1, 2016, hospice routine home care (HRHC) will change to include two rates, and a service intensity add-on (SIA) payment has been added. Please see below for more details.

★ **What this means to you:** Please use the appropriate codes as outlined below when billing for these services from January 1, 2016 onward.

### How will billing for HRHC change effective January 1, 2016?

HRHC, currently T2042, will change to include **two** rates:

- **Days 1-60:** Providers bill **T2042** for the higher rate. The rate is based on the member's county of residence.
- **Days 61 and beyond:** Providers bill **T2042-U2** for the lower rate. The rate is based on the member's county of residence.

### **Important notes:**

- For a patient who is discharged and readmitted to hospice **within 60 days**, the prior hospice days will continue to count toward the 60 days of higher reimbursement.
- For a patient who has been discharged from hospice for **more than 60 days**, a new election to hospice will initiate a reset of the 60-day window. The provider will be paid at the higher rate upon the new election.
- Members who have been receiving HRHC prior to January 1, 2016 will have those previous days counted toward the 60 days at the higher rate.

### How will SIA payment for end of life care change effective January 1, 2016?

An SIA payment will be made for a visit by a registered nurse (RN) or a social worker when provided during routine home care in the last seven days of life. This payment is in addition to the routine home care rate.

Please note the following codes:

- **For an RN (15-minute units):** G0299-U2; the rate is based on the member's county of residence.
- **For a social worker (15-minute units):** G0155; the rate is based on the member's county of residence.

### **Criteria:**

- The day is an HRHC level-of-care day.
- The day occurs during the last seven days of life (and the member is discharged deceased).
- Service is provided by an RN or social worker, that day, for at least 15 minutes and up to four hours total (not to exceed 16 combined 15-minute units per day).
- The service is not covered if provided by a social worker via telephone.

### What if I need assistance?

If you have questions, please contact your local Provider Relations representative or call our Provider Services team at 1-800-454-3730.

