

January 13, 2021

<Provider Name>  
 <Provider Address 1>  
 <Provider Address 2>  
 <City> <State> zipcode5-zipcode4

Dear Provider:

RE: COVID-19 Response: Premium Pay

This letter serves as notice that the COVID-19 Premium Pay announced in Letters L 20-28, L 20-42, and L 20-67 has been extended through February 28, 2021 by the passage of Public Act 257 of 2020. The funding source for the Premium Pay for January and February 2021 will be paid through Medicaid funds. This extension applies to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) programs and service codes listed below:

Program Name	Services	Related HCPCS Codes
Home Help	Personal Care	
MI Choice Waiver	Community Living Supports; Respite	H2015, H2016, S5150, S5151
MI Health Link	Expanded Community Living Supports; Personal Care; Respite	H2015, H2016, S5150, S5151, T1019
Behavioral Health	Community Living Supports; Overnight Health and Safety Supports; Personal Care; Prevocational Services; Respite Skill Building; Applied behavior analysis (ABA) Adaptive Behavior Treatment; ABA Group Adaptive Behavior Treatment; ABA Exposure Adaptive Treatment; Crisis Residential Services; Residential Services – Substance Use Disorder (SUD); Residential Services - Co-occurring SUD/MH; Withdrawal Management – SUD	97153, 97154, 0373T, H0043, H0019, H0010, H0012, H0014, H0018, H2014, H2015, H2016, T2027, T1020, T2015, S5151, T1005

The temporary Premium Pay for services provided April 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021 is intended to cover a \$2.00 per hour increase in direct care worker wages, along with a \$0.24 per hour increase for agencies to cover their additional costs associated with implementing this increase. These amounts are to be paid in addition to the wage the direct care worker was earning since March 1, 2020 and recorded separately from base pay. The \$2.00 per hour Premium Pay must be applied entirely to direct care worker wages. The \$2.00 and \$0.24 per hour amounts may be implemented by an equivalent as divided per billing unit. One example of “an equivalent as divided per billing unit” is, for programs billing in 15-minute increments, the payment would be \$0.50 per 15-minute unit for the direct care worker, and \$0.06 per 15-minute unit for the additional agency cost.

For program participants receiving services through a self-determination arrangement under the behavioral health, MI Health Link and MI Choice Waiver programs, direct care workers must receive this Premium Pay for the hours or billing units worked between April 1, 2020 and February 28, 2021. The Fiscal Intermediary, or agency (for Agency with Choice), must receive \$0.24 per hour for related taxes. The “equivalent as divided per billing unit” described above applies.

**All Premium Payments are subject to audit and potential recoupment. Providers should retain documentation that supports the distribution to direct care workers and that payments were made in accordance with the requirements in this letter and letters L 20-28, L 20-42, and L 20-67.**

Direct care workers should still follow the guidance issued in March 2020 titled “Actions for Caregivers of Older Adults During COVID-19” along with the document “Actions for Caregivers for Older Adults Addendum Frequently Asked Questions”. These documents describe recommendations for in-home direct care workers and methods to assure a face-to-face visit is needed. These documents can be found at: [https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71547\\_4860\\_78446\\_78448---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71547_4860_78446_78448---,00.html).

Direct care workers who are providing behavioral health services should also follow the additional guidance found at: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/BHDDACOV19>.

If you have questions, you can call Provider Support at 1-800-292-2550 or e-mail [providersupport@michigan.gov](mailto:providersupport@michigan.gov).

Sincerely,



Kate Massey, Director  
Medical Services Administration