

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2146-MC-FFS-CVD

DATE: June 30, 2020

TO: All Iowa Medicaid Skilled Nursing Facilities and Nursing Facilities, including Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) providers

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS), Coronavirus Disease (CVD)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: COVID-19 Relief Rate Add-on Payments

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

COVID-19 Relief Rate (CRR) payments are available to Medicaid certified skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and nursing facilities (NF) during the period of the federal public health emergency who meet one of the following requirements:

1. The facility has a designated isolation unit for the treatment of COVID-19; or
2. The facility, in its entirety, is designated for the treatment of COVID-19.

CRR payments are made to eligible facilities for enrollees residing in a designated isolation unit or COVID-19 designated facility who:

1. Are discharging from a hospital to the nursing facility; or
2. Are pending test results for COVID-19; or
3. Have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

The purpose of these payments is to provide financial assistance to facilities that incur unexpected costs when caring for Medicaid members who are diagnosed with or quarantined for potential COVID-19. These additional expenses can be burdensome to facilities and the current rate methodology does not capture these expenses in a timely manner. The designated isolation area would allow for a higher infection control protocol, higher staff ratios, and dedicated staff to avoid cross contamination.

The effective date a facility could qualify to receive CRR payments is beginning March 13th, 2020, and extending through the end of the federal public health emergency declaration. The CRR payment is \$300 per day per Medicaid member who are COVID-19 positive, on the date of service bill, as long as the facility meets the requirements listed above. The CRR payment is in addition to the already established per diem rates.

CRR payments will be paid through the Medicaid member's payer, either MCO, Medicaid FFS or PACE. Providers will need to submit claims with the "disaster related" condition code added to the claim form. More information regarding the disaster related condition code may be found at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/se20011.pdf>. Providers who have already submitted claims for Medicaid members that meet the criteria for the CRR payments, will be required to re-submit claims that have previously been paid for the reprocessing to include the CRR payment to IME and MCO's for the dates of service.

Costs incurred in relation to caring for Medicaid members who are impacted with COVID-19 will be subject to review during the annual cost reporting process. Costs for individuals with another payer source shall not be attributed to Medicaid members. There will be a separate schedule developed to report the cost and additional funds related to COVID-19. Increased and new costs will not be allowed for the normal room and board that are rebased biannually. Additional guidance related the reporting requirements will be forthcoming.

If the CRR payments are made, the MCO will conduct post-payment reviews to verify the validity of the information provided. Providers must maintain documentation of their COVID-19 positive members and the duration of the treatment.

Questions about COVID-19 Relief Rates payments can be submitted to:

Amerigroup: AmerigroupPSO@Amerigroup.com or by calling 1-800-454-3730

Iowa Total Care: providerrelations@iowatotalcare.com or by calling 1-833-404-1061

Iowa Medicaid Enterprise: imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us

For additional questions, please contact Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, Provider Services at 1-800-338-7909.