

April 2, 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, L 20-67, and L 21-02 has been extended through September 2021 by the passage of Public Act 2 of 2021. 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
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 ABA Adaptive Behavior Treatment ABA Group Adaptive Behavior Treatment ABA Exposure Adaptive Treatment Crisis Residential Services Residential Services -SUD Residential Services – Co-occurring SUD/MH Withdrawal Management – SUD Supported Employment	97153, 97154, 0373T, H0043, H0019, H0010, H0012, H0014, H0018, H2014, H2015, H2016, T2027, T1020, T2015, S5151, T1005, H2023

The temporary Premium Pay for services provided March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 is intended to cover a \$2.25 per hour increase in direct care worker wages, along with an additional \$0.27 per hour 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 prior to April 1, 2020 **and recorded separately from base pay**. The \$2.25 per hour Premium Pay must be applied entirely to direct care worker wages. The \$2.25 and \$0.27 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 \$0.56 per 15-minute unit for the direct care worker, and \$0.0675 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 \$2.25 Premium Pay for the hours or billing units worked between March 1, 2021 and September 30, 2021. The Fiscal Intermediary, or agency (for Agency with Choice), must receive \$0.27 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, L 20-67, and L 21-02.**

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 1-800-979-4662 or e-mail them at [providersupport@michigan.gov](mailto:providersupport@michigan.gov).

An electronic version of this document is available at [www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders](http://www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders) >> Policy, Letters & Forms.

Sincerely,



Kate Massey, Director  
Medical Services Administration