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Division Director

Long Term Care Bureau

Tonya Hales
Director

Date: August 13, 2009

TO: Medicaid Hospice Provider Agencies

FROM: Jason Stewart, Assistant Director
Long Term Care Bureau

SUBJECT: Medicaid Hospice Rates

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009, required revisions to the hospice wage index previously published in the Federal Register on August 8, 2008. This change in the wage index has resulted in changes to the Utah Medicaid hospice rates. This rate change is retroactive to October 1, 2008.

Enclosed is a table listing the Medicaid billing codes and rates for hospice covered services that became effective October 1, 2008. The last column of the table delineates the Medicaid reimbursement rates that will be paid for each hospice covered service. As in the past, the reimbursement rates are specific to several geographical areas of Utah. Medicaid hospice providers must use the reimbursement rate associated with the geographical area in which the Medicaid client resides, not the geographical area in which the hospice agency is necessarily located.

Please begin using the new rates for services provided after August 31, 2009. Division of Health Care Financing staff will review all hospice reimbursement claims with dates of service between October 1, 2008 and August 31, 2009 and will make any necessary adjustments to reflect the new rate schedule.

If you have questions, please contact me at (801) 538-9144 or by email at jasonstewart@utah.gov. Thank You.