

Annual Home Health Agency Prospective Payment System (HHA PPS) Rate Updates - CY 2010

(Final payment amounts per 60-day episodes ending on or after January 1, 2010 and before January 1, 2011 - Continuing Calendar Year (CY) update.)

Home Health Agency Prospective Payment System (HHA PPS) - Determination of Standard HHA PPS amounts

Section 1895(b)(3)(B) of the Act, as amended by section 5201 of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA), requires for CY 2010 that the standard prospective payment amount be increased by a factor equal to the applicable home health market basket update for HHAs.

National 60-Day Episode Payment Amounts - CY 2010

In order to calculate the CY 2010 national standardized 60-day episode, the CY 2009 national standardized 60-day episode payment of \$2,271.92 was increased to adjust for the 5% originally set aside for outlier payments and then reduced to account for the 2.5% outlier policy. This adjusted amount was then increased by the CY 2010 home health market basket update percentage of 2% and finally reduced by 2.75% to account for the change in case-mix that is not related to the real change in patient acuity levels as reflected in [Figure 12.L.2010-1](#):

FIGURE 12.L.2010-1 NATIONAL 60-DAY EPISODE PAYMENT RATE UPDATED BY THE HOME HEALTH MARKET BASKET UPDATE FOR CY 2010, BEFORE CASE-MIX ADJUSTMENT AND WAGE ADJUSTED BASED ON THE SITE OF SERVICE FOR THE BENEFICIARY

CY 2009 National Standardized 60-day Episode Payment Rate	Adjusted to return outlier funds that for the original 5% target for outlier payments.	Adjusted to account for the proposed 2.5% outlier policy.	Multiply by the home health market basket update (2%).	Reduced by 2.75% for nominal change in case-mix.	CY 2010 National Standardized 60-day Episode Payment Rate
\$2,271.92	÷ 0.95	x 0.975	x 1.020	x 0.9725	\$2,312.94

National Per-Visit Amounts Used to Pay Low Utilization Payment Adjustments (LUPAs) and Compute Costs of Outlier - CY 2010

The CY 2009 national per-visit amounts were increased to adjust for the 5% originally set aside for outlier payments then reduced to account for the 2.5% outlier policy. These adjusted amounts were then increased by the CY 2010 home health market basket update percentage of 2%. National per-visit rates were not subjected to the nominal increase in case-mix because they were per-visit rates

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and as such not subject to the case-mix adjustment. The final updated CY 2010 national per-visit rates per discipline are reflected in [Figure 12.L.2010-2](#):

FIGURE 12.L.2010-2 NATIONAL PER-VISIT RATES FOR LUPAS (NOT INCLUDING THE LUPA ADD-ON PAYMENT AMOUNT FOR A BENEFICIARY'S ONLY EPISODE OR THE INITIAL EPISODE IN A SEQUENCE OF ADJACENT EPISODES) AND OUTLIER CALCULATIONS UPDATED BY THE CY 2010 HOME HEALTH MARKET BASKET UPDATE, BEFORE WAGE INDEX ADJUSTMENT

Home Health Discipline	CY 2009 Per-visit payment amounts per 60-day episode for LUPAs.	Adjusted to return the outlier funds that paid for the original 5% target for outlier payments.	Adjusted to account for the 2.5% outlier policy.	Multiply by home health market basket update (2%).	CY 2010 Per-Visit Amounts
Home Health Aide	\$48.89	÷ 0.95	x 0.975	x 1.02	\$51.18
Medical Social Services	173.05	÷ 0.95	x 0.975	x 1.02	181.16
Occupational Therapy	118.83	÷ 0.95	x 0.975	x 1.02	124.40
Physical Therapy	118.04	÷ 0.95	x 0.975	x 1.02	123.57
Skilled Nursing	107.95	÷ 0.95	x 0.975	x 1.02	113.01
Speech-Language Pathology	128.26	÷ 0.95	x 0.975	x 1.02	134.27

Payment of LUPA Episodes

Payment for LUPA episodes changed in CY 2008 in that for LUPAs that occur as initial episodes in a sequence of adjacent episodes or as the only episode, an additional payment amount is added to the LUPA payment. The Figure 12-L-2010-2 per-visit rate noted above are before that additional payment is added to the LUPA payment, and are the per-visit rates paid to all other LUPA episodes and used in computing outlier payments. LUPA episodes that occur as the only episode or initial episode in a sequence of adjacent episodes are adjusted by adding an additional amount to the LUPA payment before adjusting for wage index. For CY 2009, that amount was \$90.48. This additional LUPA amount was updated in the same manner as the national standardized 60-day episode payment amount and the per-visit rates as is reflected in [Figure 12.L.2010-3](#).

FIGURE 12.L.2010-3 CY 2010 LUPA ADD-ON PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CY 2009 LUPA Add-on Payment Amount	Adjusted to return the outlier funds that paid for the original 5% target for outlier payments.	Adjusted to account for the 2.5% outlier policy.	Multiply by home health market basket update (2%).	CY 2010 LUPA Per-Visit Amounts
\$90.48	÷ 0.95	x 0.975	x 1.02	\$94.72

Severity Non-Routine Medical Supplies (NRS) System

Beginning in CY 2008, to ensure that the variation in NRS is more appropriately reflected in the HHA PPS, the original portion (\$49.62) of the HHA PPS base rate that accounted for NRS, was replaced with a system that pays for NRS based on six severity groups. Payments for the NRS are computed by multiplying the relative weight for a particular severity level by the NRS conversion factor. The

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CY 2009 NRS conversion factor was updated for CY 2010 by increasing it to adjust for the 5% originally set aside for outlier payments and then reducing it to account for the 2.5% outlier policy. The adjusted conversion factor was then increased by the CY 2010 home health market basket update percentage of 2% and finally reduced by 2.75% to account for the change in case-mix that is not related to the real change in patient acuity levels as reflected in [Figure 12.L.2010-4](#). The NRS conversion factor for CY 2010 is \$53.34.

FIGURE 12.L.2010-4 NON-ROUTINE MEDICAL SUPPLY (NRS) CONVERSION FACTOR FOR CY 2010

CY 2009 NRS Conversion Factor	Adjusted to return the outlier funds that paid for the original 5% target for outliers payments.	Adjusted to account for the 2.5% outlier policy.	Multiply by home health market basket update (2%).	Reduce by 2.75% for nominal change in case-mix.	CY 2010 NRS Conversion Factor
\$52.39	÷ 0.95	x 0.975	x 1.02	x 0.9725	\$53.34

The payment amounts, using the above computed CY 2010 NRS conversion factor (\$53.34), for the various severity levels based on the updated conversion factor are calculated in [Figure 12.L.2010-5](#).

FIGURE 12.L.2010-5 RELATIVE WEIGHTS FOR THE SIX-SEVERITY NRS SYSTEM

Severity Level	Points (Scoring)	Relative Weight	NRS Payment Amount
1	0	0.2698	\$14.39
2	1 to 14	0.9742	51.96
3	15 to 27	2.6712	142.48
4	28 to 48	3.9686	211.69
5	49 to 98	6.1198	326.43
6	99+	10.5254	561.42

Outlier Payments

Under the HHA PPS, outlier payments are made for episodes for which the estimated cost exceeds a threshold amount. The wage adjusted Fixed Dollar Loss (FDL) amount represents the amount of loss that an agency must bear before an episode becomes eligible for outlier payments. The FDL ratio which is used in calculating the FDL amount has been reduced from 0.89 to 0.67 for CY 2010.

Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS)

OASIS-C is a modification to the OASIS that HHAs must collect in order to participate in the TRICARE program. Implementation of OASIS-C is required effective January 1, 2010.

Temporary 3% Rural Add-On for the HHA PPS

The rural add-on policy was established in Section 3131 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) of 2010. Section 3131 amends Section 421 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173) as amended by Section 5201(b) of the DRA of 2005 (Public Law 109-171).

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Section 3131 of the PPACA institutes, for home health services furnished in a rural area with respect to episodes and visits ending on or after April 1, 2010 and before January 1, 2016, a 3% increase in the payment amount otherwise made under the HHA PPS. The 3% rural add-on is applied to the national standardized 60-day episode rate, the national per-visit rates, the LUPA add-on payment amount, and the NRS conversion factor when home health services are provided in rural (non-Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA)) areas. The applicable case-mix and wage index adjustments are subsequently applied. Episodes that qualify for the 3% rural add-on will be identified by a CBSA code that begins with '999'.

National 60-Day Episode Payment Amounts for Rural, Non-CBSA Areas

In order to calculate the national standardized 60-day episode payment for beneficiaries residing in a rural area, the CY 2010 national standardized 60-day episode payment of \$2,312.94 was increased by 3%.

FIGURE 12.L.2010-6 NATIONAL 60-DAY EPISODE PAYMENT AMOUNTS FOR BENEFICIARIES RESIDING IN RURAL AREAS, BEFORE CASE-MIX ADJUSTMENT AND WAGE ADJUSTED BASED ON THE SITE OF SERVICE FOR THE BENEFICIARY

National standardized 60-day episode payment amount for CY 2010.	Multiplied by 3% rural increase.	CY 2010 total national standardized 60-day episode payment amount for a beneficiary who resides in a rural, non-CBSA area.
\$2,312.94	x 1.03	\$2,382.33

National Per-Visit Amounts Used To Pay LUPAs For Beneficiaries Who Reside In Rural Areas

The CY 2010 national per-visit amounts were increased by 3% for beneficiaries who reside in rural areas.

FIGURE 12.L.2010-7 NATIONAL PER-VISIT RATES FOR LUPAS (NOT INCLUDING THE LUPA ADD-ON PAYMENT AMOUNT FOR A BENEFICIARY'S ONLY EPISODE OR THE INITIAL EPISODE IN A SEQUENCE OF ADJACENT EPISODES) AND OUTLIER CALCULATIONS UPDATED BY THE 3% RURAL ADD-ON

Home Health Discipline	CY 2010 Per-visit rate.	Multiplied by 3% rural increase.	CY 2010 total per-visit rates for a beneficiary who resides in a rural, non-CBSA area.
Home Health Aide	\$51.18	x 1.03	\$52.72
Medical Social Services	\$181.16	x 1.03	\$186.59
Occupational Therapy	\$124.40	x 1.03	\$128.13
Physical Therapy	\$123.57	x 1.03	\$127.28
Skilled Nursing	\$113.01	x 1.03	\$116.40
Speech-Language Pathology	\$134.27	x 1.03	\$138.30

Payment of LUPA Episodes for Beneficiaries Who Reside in Rural Areas

LUPA episodes that occur as initial episodes in a sequence of adjacent episodes or as the only episode receive an additional payment. The per-visit rates noted in [Figure 12.L.2010-7](#) are before that additional payment is added to the LUPA amount. The CY 2010 LUPA add-on payment was increased by 3% for beneficiaries who reside in rural areas.

FIGURE 12.L.2010-8 LUPA ADD-ON PAYMENT AMOUNT FOR BENEFICIARIES WHO RESIDE IN A RURAL AREA

CY 2010 LUPA Add-On Payment	Multiplied by 3% rural increase.	CY 2010 LUPA add-on payment for a beneficiary who resides in a rural, non-CBSA area.
\$94.72	x 1.03	\$97.56

Payment for NRS

Payments for NRS are computed by multiplying the relative weight for a particular severity level by the NRS conversion factor. The NRS conversion factor for CY 2010 payments was increased by 3% for beneficiaries who reside in rural areas.

FIGURE 12.L.2010-9 NRS CONVERSION FACTOR FOR BENEFICIARIES WHO RESIDE IN A RURAL AREA

CY 2010 NRS Conversion Factor	Multiplied by 3% rural increase.	CY 2010 conversion factor for a beneficiary who resides in a rural, non-CBSA area.
\$53.34	x 1.03	\$54.94

The payment amounts, using the above computed NRS conversion factor (\$54.94), for the various severity levels based on the updated conversion factor are calculated in [Figure 12.L.2010-10](#).

FIGURE 12.L.2010-10 RELATIVE WEIGHTS FOR THE SIX-SEVERITY NRS SYSTEM FOR BENEFICIARIES RESIDING IN A RURAL AREA

Severity Level	Points (Scoring)	Relative Weight	NRS Payment Amount
1	0	0.2698	\$14.82
2	1 to 14	0.9742	\$53.52
3	15 to 27	2.6712	\$146.76
4	28 to 48	3.9686	\$218.03
5	49 to 98	6.1198	\$336.22
6	99+	10.5254	\$578.57

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