

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION-PUBLIC NOTICE

1. **Name of the Agency:** Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
2. **The topic of the public information notice:** AHCCCS Fee-For-Service (FFS) rates for designated fee schedules to be effective for dates of service beginning October 1, 2022.
3. **The public information relating to the topic:**
 - a. This Notice of Public Information describes changes to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Fee-For-Service (FFS) rates to be effective October 1, 2022. The AHCCCS Administration is proposing changes to the FFS rates specified in this Notice to assure that payments are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care and are sufficient to enlist enough providers so that care and services are available at least to the extent that such care and services are available to the general population in the geographic area. The estimated increase in FFS payments as a result of the rate changes is expected to be approximately \$36,786,000 for the time period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. More detailed information regarding the fee schedule changes is included below.

The following fee schedules will be updated as described below:

- Federally Qualified Health Center Prospective Payment System rates will be increased by 0.7% to reflect the change in the Physicians' Services Index. In addition, a .5%, 1.0%, or 1.5% increase may be applied to qualified providers as applicable based on Differential Adjusted Payment criteria.
- Nursing Facilities Per Diem Fee Schedule rates will be updated for an 11.0% increase in rates.
- Home and Community Based Services Fee Schedule rates will be updated for an 11.0% increase in rates.
- Hospice per diem rates will be updated to match the *Medicaid Hospice Payment Rates* for Arizona published by Medicare.
- Ambulance rates that are based on the Arizona Ground Ambulance Service Rate Schedule published by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, will be updated in accordance with state law, which will result in a 10.2% aggregate increase.
- FFS Emergency Ground Ambulance Fee Schedule rates (other than those based on rates established by the Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services) will be updated for a 6.1% increase in rates.
- Transportation, Air Ambulance Fee Schedule rates will be updated for a 6.9% aggregate increase to the fee schedule.
- Treat and Refer Fee Schedule rates will be updated for a 11.1% increase in rates.
- Physician Drug Schedule rates will be updated to address changes in drug prices which will result in a 6.2% aggregate change.
- Global OB codes (59400,59510,59610, and 59618) on the Physician Fee Schedule will see an 88.0% increase in rates.
- Inpatient Hospital APR-DRG base rates for specific rural hospitals will be adjusted to capture additional reimbursement as part of the rural hospital inpatient fund program.
- Inpatient Hospital APR-DRG newborn policy adjustor has been adjusted to 1.7 to account for the additional newborn screening costs from ADHS.

- Inpatient Hospital Long-Term Acute Care Hospital and Rehabilitation Hospital inpatient per diem rates will be updated for changes in hospital case mix indices and outlier cost-to-charge ratios will be updated to match Medicare 2022 ratios.
- AzEIP Speech Therapy Fee Schedule rates will be adjusted on aggregate by 35%.
- Select Behavioral Health Outpatient Fee Schedule codes will receive a 2.5% increase for an aggregate increase to the schedule at 2.3%.
- AHCCCS has also priced three codes that were previously priced at “By Report” for October 1, 2022:
 - S5136- Companion care, adult, per diem: \$177.52
 - H0015- Alcohol and/or drug services; intensive outpatient: \$138.82
 - S9480- Intensive Outpatient Psychiatric Services; Per Diem: \$370.41

The following fee schedules will be updated to reflect changes to the Medicare fee schedules on which they are based:

- Ambulatory Surgical Center Fee Schedule rates for an aggregate increase of 2.1%.
- Durable Medical Equipment Fee Schedule rates will be updated to reflect a 0.1% increase in aggregate.

The following fee schedules will remain unchanged:

- Behavioral Health Inpatient Fee Schedule rates
- Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule rates
- Dental Fee Schedule rates
- Freestanding Dialysis Facility Composite rates
- Hospital-Based Freestanding Emergency Department Fee Schedule rates
- Multi-Specialty Interdisciplinary Clinic rates
- Transportation, Non-Emergency Fee Schedule rates

b. Individual FFS rates reflecting the changes to reimbursement described above can be obtained from the AHCCCS website at:

<https://azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>

c. Many public libraries offer access to the internet. In addition, the information can be obtained at the Offices of the AHCCCS Administration, 801 E. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ85034.

Comments regarding the proposed AHCCCS FFS rates may be submitted electronically at FFSRates@azahcccs.gov.

All comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 15, 2022.

