

Special Edition Newsletter

October 26, 2020



IMPORTANT FAMILY/CLIENT UPDATE

Hazard Pay

On October, 15, 2020, Gov. Ralph Northam announced a one-time, pre-tax payment for hazard pay in the amount of \$1500 to home health care workers, including consumer-directed attendants, who served Medicaid members between March 12 and June 30, 2020. In order to take advantage of this hazard pay, all attendants need to submit their timesheets for this period to their fiscal agent (PPL, Acces\$, or CDCN) no later than this Friday, October 30, 2020.

According to the press release, "Home health care workers provide services that are critical in enabling older Virginians or people with disabilities to continue living in their own homes. In addition to the hazard payments, the state budget that went into effect July 1 included a seven percent pay raise over two years for home health workers, and the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is working to provide those workers with personal protective equipment, including masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer."

We are working to get answers to the following questions:

- While we assume this payment goes to ALL attendants, including parents of minor children, because the provision for parents to be paid attendants is temporary, we have asked for direction from DMAS, to be sure.
 - Note: We understand that there are still parents trying to get paperwork through the fiscal agents so that they can get back-pay for working during this period. So we've also asked DMAS for direction on what to do for those attendants who worked during this period, but do not have an active account yet in the fiscal agent portal in order to submit their time by Oct. 30.
- We also assume that the \$1500 is one-time to each attendant, no matter how many employers or people they serve. We have,

however, asked the question, "Will the payment be by EOR, by person receiving services, or by Attendant? In other words, if the attendant serves more than one person or family, will the payment be made more than once?"

Once we have answers to these points of clarification, we will be sure to send an update. In the meantime, if you have questions, please feel free to reach out to our Family Resource Specialists at 800-417-0908 opt 2.

As always, we are here to support you and your family and will continue to provide information as changes occur and as information is announced throughout this emergency.

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for Individuals approved for Virginia's Medicaid Waivers: CCC+, CL and FIS Waiver