



MSB Maine Community Email | October 22, 2012

In February 2011, the former Director, Division of Policy, MaineCare Services indicated in an email to MSB that *"Your reimbursement rate for MaineCare services is the published rate in each of the sections of policy. . ."*

It was at this time that MSB communicated with our districts to inform them of the position that MaineCare was taking with regard to billing MaineCare at the published rate in each of the sections of policy, but that districts should strongly consider billing using the actual salary and benefit costs for each service provider for which the district was seeking MaineCare reimbursement.

In recent communication with MaineCare, MSB once again raised the issue of billing at the published rates vs. the methodology as stipulated in each of the sections of policy, which reads:

The amount of payment for services rendered shall be the lowest of the following:

- A.** *The amount listed in Chapter III (for the applicable MaineCare Benefits Manual Section).*
- B.** *The lowest amount allowed by the Medicare carrier.*
- C.** *The provider's usual and customary charge.*

The answer we received recently from MaineCare was that districts should be following the above requirements as found in each of the sections of policy-an answer that appears to reverse MaineCare's previous guidance.

MaineCare has further indicated that MaineCare will be sending a Listserv to districts advising them to bill at the lower of either A) the MaineCare published rates; B) the Medicare rate; or C) the usual and customary charges.

It is our understanding that MaineCare is examining the possibility of developing Usual and Customary rates that would be made available for public schools. In the meantime, MSB recommends that the safest route is to submit claims that are reflective of the districts' actual costs for services. Should the Usual and Customary rates become published by MaineCare, MSB would then make every effort to adjust claims where the original submitted costs were less than the Usual and Customary rates, if timely filing deadlines and other factors would allow us to do so on the behalf of districts.

In light of this departure from MaineCare's February 2011 guidance, districts should send the salary and benefit information to MSB for any service providers for which the district is seeking Medicaid reimbursement so that MSB can calculate the rate for each of your providers in order to begin submitting claims on your behalf for the 2012-13 school year.

Districts should submit their salary and benefit information by utilizing the template spreadsheet that can be found at http://www.msb-services.com/Packets/Maine/General/ME_rate_template_2012-2013.xls.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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