



Frequently Asked Questions

Removing Weighted First Hour

For Private Duty Nursing and Personal Care Aide-Ohio Home Care Waiver (only)

- **What services are changing to remove the “weighted first hour” reimbursement?**
 - Subject to CMS approval, on January 1, 2024, the following services will change to eliminate the weighted first hour reimbursement.

Service Name in OAC	Billing Code	Program	New Base	New Unit
Private Duty Nursing, RN (Agency)	T1000 / TD	State Plan	\$51.68	\$12.92
Private Duty Nursing, RN (Non-Agency)	T1000 / TD	State Plan	\$46.00	\$11.50
Private Duty Nursing, LPN (Agency) each 15 mins.	T1000/TE	State Plan	\$43.60	\$10.90
Private Duty Nursing, LPN (Non-Agency)	T1000 / TE	State Plan	\$38.88	\$9.72
Private Duty Nursing, RN (Non-Agency)- Overtime	T1000 / TD	State Plan	\$69.00	\$17.25
Private Duty Nursing, LPN (Non-Agency) - Overtime	T1000/TE	State Plan	\$58.32	\$14.58
Personal Care Aide (Agency)	T1019	OHCW	\$28.96	\$7.24
Personal Care Aide (Non-agency)	T1019	OHCW	\$22.32	\$5.58
Personal Care Aide (Non-agency)-Overtime	T1019	OHCW	\$33.48	\$8.37

For the purpose of this FAQ, the services above are referred to collectively as private duty nursing (PDN) and Personal Care Aide/Ohio Home Care Waiver Services (PCA) or PDN/PCA.

- **Do I bill differently?**
 - No. The only changes are the increases in the base and unit rates. Continue to bill as you have been, just use the new rates.
- **Why is this change being made? Why isn't the change also being made to home health services?**
 - Historically, home health nursing and PDN/PCA have had the same rate structure for base and sub-unit reimbursement.
 - Home health nursing and PDN/PCA services have different purposes and patterns of utilization. Stakeholder feedback has resulted in the state assessing the services to determine the most appropriate approach to the rate changes being implemented.

- The average length of visit of PDN/PCA is approximately eight hours. This is different from a home health nursing with an average visit length of hour. The purposes of these two services are different. Home health nursing is intended to be temporary and periodic. It is often related to an acute episode whereas PDN/PCA is for custodial care. These programmatic differences indicate a need for a separate rate structure between the two services. Based on feedback, this change provides a financial incentive to help address gaps in care for individuals with needs requiring longer visits.
- **Why does home health make more?**
 - Home health nursing has a higher reimbursement for a short visit, but PDN/PCA has higher reimbursement for a longer visit.
- **Can you give me an example?**
 - For a registered nurse who works for an agency for home health the first hour or the base rate is \$68.44, and the unit rate is \$9.25. The first hour for a registered nurse for private duty nursing who works for an agency is \$51.68 and the unit rate is \$12.92. This results in the following hourly effective payment.

	Home Health RN	Average Hourly Rate	PDN RN	Average Hourly Rate
1 ST hour	\$68.44	\$68.44	\$51.68	\$51.68
2 ND hour	$\$105.44 = (68.44 + (9.25 \times 4))$	\$52.72	$\$103.36 = (51.68 + (12.92 \times 4))$	\$51.68
3 RD hour	$\$142.44 = (68.44 + (9.25 \times 8))$	\$47.48	$\$153.84 = (51.68 + (12.92 \times 8))$	\$51.28
4 TH hour	$\$179.44 = (68.44 + (9.25 \times 12))$	\$44.86	$\$206.72 = (51.68 + (12.92 \times 12))$	\$51.68
5 TH hour	N/A	N/A	$\$258.40 = (51.68 + (12.92 \times 16))$	\$51.68
6 TH hour	N/A	N/A	$\$310.08 = (51.68 + (12.92 \times 20))$	\$51.68
7 TH hour	N/A	N/A	$\$361.76 = (51.68 + (12.92 \times 24))$	\$51.68
8 TH hour	N/A	N/A	$\$413.44 + (51.68 + (12.92 \times 28))$	\$51.68

- **Who can I contact if I have questions?**
 - If you have questions, please email us at HCBSPolicy@Medicaid.gov.