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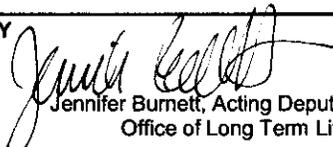
# OFFICE OF LONG-TERM LIVING BULLETIN

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6/25/09

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7/1/09

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43-09-02, 55-09-02, 59-09-02.

**SUBJECT**  
Provider rates for services funded through the OBRA, Independence and COMMCARE Waivers

**BY**  
  
Jennifer Burnett, Acting Deputy Secretary  
Office of Long Term Living

**PURPOSE:**

To provide guidance to providers on the rates for services provided under the OBRA, Independence and COMMCARE waivers.

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to OBRA, COMMCARE and Independence waiver providers.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Aging and Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) recently revised rates for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) which ties any rate increase to the amount of funds available in the Governor's proposed budget. Under this process, any new provider enrolling in the Aging Waiver is paid for services provided at the lowest rate currently approved for the procedure code within the service area of the AAA. Additionally, rates for the Act 150 Program and the Attendant Care Waiver are established through published fee schedules.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Governor's proposed budget for FY 2009-2010 did not include any funding for a rate increase for waiver services. Therefore, rates for existing providers in the OBRA, COMMCARE and Independence waivers will be maintained at their current levels. For new providers applying for MA certification subsequent to the issuance date of this bulletin, the allowable rate will be limited to the lowest rate currently approved for the service in that waiver. If, however, a provider can demonstrate that their costs exceed the lowest rate for that waiver, OLTL will consider a higher rate up to the statewide average for that service.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Phyllis Bennett  
Department of Aging/Office of Long-Term Living  
Bureau of Financial Operation  
P.O. Box 2675  
Harrisburg, PA 17105  
(717) 772-0186

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This process will not only maintain cost-neutrality, but is a first step toward establishing a standard rate-setting methodology for the waivers that will streamline the enrollment process and help to eliminate the current requirement of providers submitting cost information as a part of the application process for enrollment.

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