

Bridge Rate for Assisted Living Facilities



The Bridge Rate is a facility-specific rate component used to incentivize providers to serve Medicaid clients in Assisted Living Facilities. It is available to clients receiving Assisted Living, Adult Residential Care, Enhanced Adult Residential Care, or Specialized Dementia Care services at qualifying facilities.

Background

The Office of Rates Management in the Management Services Division of the Home & Community Living Administration sets the Bridge Rate for Assisted Living Facilities each July 1.

Once set, these rates will be active through Washington state's fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Providers qualify for the Bridge Rate at the July 1 rate setting if their facility meets the criteria of 75% Medicaid occupancy during the qualification period.

Funding for the Bridge Rate is allocated by the legislature in the biennial budget and may end on June 30 of any year if not funded for the following fiscal year.



Medicaid Days

Medicaid Days are taken from ProviderOne claims data to assess the total number of Assisted Living Facility days for clients whose services are covered by Medicaid.



Licensed Beds

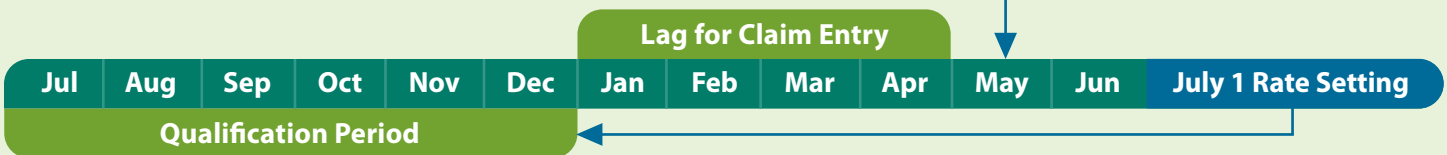
DSHS Secure Tracking and Reporting System is used to establish Licensed Beds, regardless of use, including 'Stand-by Beds'.



Qualification Period

The Qualification Period for calculating the Bridge Rate for July 1 is the previous July 1 through December 31 (184 Days).

**Medicaid Days
Licensed Beds x 184 Days
Bridge Rate Calculation**



Sample Assisted Living Facility has 60 Licensed Beds. All 60 beds were licensed for the full Qualification Period, or 184 days.

60 Licensed Beds x 184 Days = **11,040 Total Possible Bed Days**



ProviderOne Claims for the Qualification Period are analyzed on April 30th for Sample Assisted Living Facility.

The total number of paid Assisted Living claim days, including PACE, within the Qualification Period = **6,992 Paid Medicaid Days**



Paid Medicaid Days are divided by the Total Possible Bed Days and Converted to a Medicaid Occupancy Percentage

6,992 Paid Medicaid Days
11,040 Total Bed Days x 100% = **63% Medicaid Occupancy**

Frequently Asked Questions

1

How will I know if I qualified for the add-on?

The list of providers that qualify for on the Bridge Rate can be found on the Office of Rates Management website. HCLA also sends this list via email as soon as it is available each year.

2

We have 60 licensed beds, but 10 are on standby. Will 60 or 50 beds be used for our Bridge Rate Calculation?

The Bridge Rate calculation will use 60 beds. The Office of Rates Management is required by the Legislature to use total licensed beds to calculate Medicaid occupancy. Information regarding stand-by beds can be found in WAC 388-78A-2800.

3

What if my facility had a change of ownership?

The facility may not show up on the original Bridge Rate list. The Office of Rates Management will need to be made aware of this and hand tabulate Medicaid occupancy for these providers.

4

I believe that my facility qualified, but I don't see it on the list. What should I do?

Have your case manager reach out to the Assisted Living Facility Policy Program Manager with HCLA to review your licensed beds in Secure Tracking and Reporting System and paid claims in ProviderOne (as of June 30). Then have your case manager contact the Office of Rates Management as needed.

5

On January 1, my facility served 100% Medicaid clients. We maintained that occupancy level through June 30th. Why don't we qualify for the Bridge Rate for the July 1 rate setting?

The parameters of the Bridge Rate are established in the Washington State Operating Budget, which requires the Office of Rates Management to determine Medicaid Occupancy using the methodology outlined in [RCW 74.39A.320](#) and [WAC 388-105-0035](#). HCLA does not have the authority to act outside of the structures outlined within these codes.

6

What happens if my facility qualifies for both the Capital Add-On Rate and the Bridge Rate?

When a facility qualifies for both the Capital Add-On Rate and the Bridge Add-On Rate, clients at that facility authorized to receive Assisted Living services will receive both add-ons, and clients at that facility authorized to receive Enhanced Adult Residential Care, Adult Residential Care, or Specialized Dementia Care services will receive the Bridge Rate only.