

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services****42 CFR Parts 405, 414, 424, 455, 484, and 498**

[CMS-1828-F]

RIN 0938-AV53

Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Calendar Year 2026 Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS) Rate Update; Requirements for the HH Quality Reporting Program and the HH Value-Based Purchasing Expanded Model; Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program Updates; DMEPOS Accreditation Requirements; Provider Enrollment; and Other Medicare and Medicaid Policies

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule sets forth routine updates to the Medicare home health payment rates in accordance with existing statutory and regulatory requirements. In addition, this final rule finalizes permanent and temporary behavior adjustments and recalibrates the case-mix weights and update the functional impairment levels; comorbidity subgroups; and low-utilization payment adjustment (LUPA) thresholds for CY 2026. This final rule also finalizes changes to the face-to-face encounter policy and changes to the Home Health Quality Reporting Program (HH QRP) and the expanded Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model requirements. In addition, it updates the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program (CBP). Lastly it finalizes: a technical change to the HH conditions of participation; updates to DMEPOS supplier conditions of payment; updates to provider and supplier enrollment requirements; and changes to DMEPOS accreditation requirements.

DATES: These regulations are effective on January 1, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information about the Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS), send your inquiry via email to HomeHealthPolicy@cms.hhs.gov.

For information about the Home Health Quality Reporting Program (HH

QRP), send your inquiry via email to HHQRPquestions@cms.hhs.gov.

For more information about the expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Model (HHVBP), please visit the Expanded HHVBP Model web page at <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/expanded-home-health-value-based-purchasing-model> or send your inquiry via email to HHVBPquestions@cms.hhs.gov.

Frank Whelan (410) 786-1302, for Medicare provider and supplier enrollment and DMEPOS accreditation inquiries.

Katie Parker (410) 786-0537, Emily Calvert (410) 786-4277, or Jessica Martindale (410) 786-1558 for DMEPOS Prior Authorization inquiries.

Alexander Ullman at (410) 786-9671 or DMEPOS@cms.hhs.gov, for DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program inquiries.

For information about the Home Health Conditions of Participation, send your inquiry via email to healthandsafetyinquiries@cms.hhs.gov.

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