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**Authorized Signature**

**Number: SPD-IM-06-049**

**Issue Date: 05/31/2006**

**Topic:** Systems Issues

**Subject:** Upcoming Mainframe and Oregon ACCESS Changes

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                 | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):                         |

**Message:** Over the weekend of June 16<sup>th</sup>, SPD will be releasing a variety of mainframe systems changes and a new version of Oregon ACCESS. SPD has been working on several systems changes to provide improved support for policy changes and in response to user set priorities. This notice provides an overview of the changes. More detailed information will be provided under releases addressing specific areas. The changes fall into the following categories:

- Support for Homecare Worker Wage Increase 7/1/06
- Older Americans Act Support
- Oregon ACCESS Forms Support
- Oregon ACCESS Remote application support
- Miscellaneous Oregon ACCESS updates

**Support for Homecare Worker Wage Increase 7/1/06**

Neither Oregon ACCESS nor the Client Employed Provider mainframe system could accommodate rate changes very well. We have added support so that both systems know the right rate for a given time period. We have changed the mainframe to use all the various rate categories. It will no longer be necessary to convert to a blended rate. A process has been developed so that changes can be made at review or as new providers are added or changed. The July '06 wage increase will be handled automatically.

➤ *Mainframe Changes to support the HCW Wage Increase*

The mainframe Client Employed Provider system screens and processes are being changed to support the Homecare Worker (HCW) multiple rates structure. The rate that an HCW is paid for a particular task depends upon three factors:

- 1) The Need Type - Activities of Daily Living tasks, Self Management tasks, and 24 Hour Availability tasks.
- 2) The Need Level - Full Assist, Substantial Assist, Minimal Assist.
- 3) The Service Arrangement - Hourly, Live-in, Spousal Pay, etc....

Depending upon the type of need, the level of need, and type of service arrangement, different hourly rates may apply. The HCW contract governs the HCW wages in each of these categories.

In the past, due to systems constraints, we have only been able to capture a single rate of pay when authorizing vouchers in the Client Employed Provider System. The rate we used was a “blended” rate that represented an average rate of pay. Capturing only a blended rate caused difficulties in accurately reflecting the client care plan, applying rate increases, properly processing adjustments, and enforcing contracted wage agreements.

The Client Employed Provider system will be modified to allow staff to enter the number of hours authorized in each of the wage categories. Staff will be able to create HCW authorizations on the mainframe that align with the plan details on the SDS 546 form generated from Oregon ACCESS. The rate of pay for each authorized category will be drawn from a standard rate table.

NOTE: We have developed a conversion strategy that will allow local offices to migrate to the new process over the next calendar year, as cases come due for reassessment. Ongoing situations will automatically use the July increased rates. Details on the conversion strategy will be released in a future transmittal.

➤ *Oregon ACCESS changes to support the HCW Wage Increase*

Oregon ACCESS already identifies the hours authorized in each wage category on the Service Plan and SDS 546 form. However, some changes have been made to the care planning section and associated forms. Some of the highlights:

- The HCW rates in Oregon ACCESS will be drawn from the same rate table used by the mainframe Client Employed Provider system.
- Staff will be able to more clearly identify who is providing service during particular date ranges. They will also be able to retain a more accurate history of the service plan.
- Printed forms will reflect the applicable rate of pay and wage amounts for particular date ranges.
- Staff will be able to easily create an authorization (SDS 546SF) for Live-in Relief providers.

**Older Americans Act Support**

As described in [SPD-IM-06-040](#), the upcoming Oregon ACCESS release will contain a

variety of changes designed to provide better systems support for OAA case managers. A new web application will also be released that will support NAPIS reporting activities.

### **Oregon ACCESS Forms Support**

A local office survey was completed and the results were reviewed with the Operations Committee, who provided additional input. As a result, a list of priority forms was developed. These forms have been updated or added as requested.

### **Remote Synchronization and Miscellaneous Oregon ACCESS Upgrades**

The upcoming release will also contain a variety of updates and “fixes” to the Oregon ACCESS system. Some highlights include:

- The software that supports remote access has been upgraded to a newer version that provides more support.
- Changes that will allow staff to update their “remote” passwords from the “consolidated” environment
- Miscellaneous improvements to the Provider component

Some of these changes are significant, and will provide improved support in areas that have never been truly supported. Currently, the improvements are being tested by central office and field staff. A transmittal with further detail will be distributed as we approach the implementation weekend.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

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