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**To:            Hospice Providers**

**Subject:    Nursing Facility Bed Hold Days**

## Overview

The amendment to *405 IAC 5-34-12* eliminating the payment of bed hold days for Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) certified and enrolled nursing facilities with less than 90 percent occupancy is effective for dates of service on or after October 1, 2001. As stated in *405 IAC 5-34-12(e)*, “In no instance will Medicaid reimburse a nursing facility for reserving nursing facility beds for hospice Medicaid recipients when the nursing facility has an occupancy rate of less than ninety percent (90%). For purposes of this rule, the occupancy rate shall be determined by dividing the total number of residents in licensed beds, excluding residential beds, in the nursing facility taken from the midnight census as of the day that a Medicaid hospice member takes a leave of absence, by the total number of licensed nursing facility beds, excluding residential beds.”

## Reimbursement Terms

It is not mandatory for nursing facility providers to reserve beds; however, the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP) continues to reimburse hospice providers at one-half the room and board rate, for reserving nursing facility beds for hospice members, when the occupancy criteria are met as set in *405 IAC 5-34-12*.

It is the hospice agency’s responsibility to confirm the nursing facility occupancy rate on the date that the leave of absence begins. Hospice providers can only bill the IHCP for leave days when the nursing facility occupancy rate is at 90 percent or greater, on the day the leave begins. If the nursing facility occupancy rate falls below 90 percent following the date the leave began, the hospice provider can continue to bill the half rate for the entire hospital or therapeutic leave.

When the nursing facility occupancy is below 90 percent, the hospice agency should use revenue code 180 to bill the IHCP for leave days. Revenue code 180 is a nonpaid

revenue code used to generate an IHCP denial, and can be used when charging a resident or legal guardian for nonreimbursed bed hold days.

The explanation of benefits (EOB) detail for revenue code 180 lists the claim as denied, with EOB 4215 – *Leave days not a covered service for this bill type – nursing facility occupancy less than 90%*.

The EDS hospice review team verifies that the nursing facility occupancy rate met the requirements specified in 405 IAC 5-34-12 when the leave began. If the hospice agency review process determines the hospice provider was not authorized to receive IHCP bed hold reimbursement, the overpayment is recouped.

## Additional Information

This change was effective October 1, 2001, for all IHCP residents of nursing facilities, regardless of whether they are enrolled in the hospice program. Nursing facilities should be informed of this change; however, any questions should be directed to the EDS Customer Assistance Unit at (317) 655-3240 in the Indianapolis local area or 1-800-577-1278.

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