

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION – PUBLIC NOTICE

1. **Name of the Agency:** Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

2. **The topic of the public information notice:**

AHCCCS Fee-For-Service (FFS) rates for the Hospice Fee Schedule to be effective for dates of service on or after October 1, 2023.

3. **The public information relating to the topic:**

- a. This Notice describes changes to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Fee-For-Service (FFS) Hospice rates to be effective for dates of service on and after October 1, 2023. The AHCCCS Administration is implementing changes to the FFS rates specified in this Notice to assure that payments are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care and are sufficient to enlist enough providers so that care and services are available at least to the extent that such care and services are available to the general population in the geographic area. The estimated increase in FFS payments as a result of the methodology change is expected to be approximately \$30,000 for the time period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

Hospice per diem rates will be updated to match the Medicaid Hospice Payment Rates for Arizona published by Medicare. In addition, AHCCCS is implementing the following methodology change to the state plan: Failure of hospice providers to meet the Medicare hospice quality reporting requirements shall result in a 2-percentage point reduction to the market basket index for hospice services prior to September 30, 2023, and a 4% percent point reduction to the market basket index for the applicable fiscal year for services on or after October 1, 2023. Their Medicaid hospice rates would be reduced by the amount of any penalty due to non-reporting.

- b. Written comments may be sent to FFSRates@azahcccs.gov and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 19th, 2024.
- c. Many public libraries offer access to the internet. In addition, the information can be obtained at the Offices of the AHCCCS Administration, 801 E. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85034.