

Public Notice – Rate Methodology for Nutrition Supports Services (Produce and Protein Prescription (PPRx) and Nutrition Instruction)

Posted on September 24, 2026

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MED-QUEST DIVISION

NOTICE FOR A PUBLIC NOTICE ON NUTRITION SUPPORTS RATES

In accordance with the public notice requirement of Title 42, Section §447.205 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the State of Hawaii, Department of Human Services (DHS), Med-QUEST Division (MQD), hereby notifies the public that MQD intends to submit a rate methodology for Nutrition Supports services provided under Hawai'i QUEST Integration¹ to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Under provisions of federal law, the state is required to issue public notice of proposed changes in statewide methods and standards for setting Medicaid payment rates.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this posting is to provide public notice regarding the proposed rate methodology for health-related social needs (HRSN) Nutrition Supports services, including Produce and Protein Prescription (PPRx) and Nutrition Instruction.

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED RATE SETTING

Two new HRSN Nutrition Supports services, Produce and Protein Prescription (PPRx) and Nutrition Instruction, will be added.

Nutrition Supports services address members' health-related social needs (HRSN) related to food security, nutrition access, and health-supportive food behaviors. Produce and Protein Prescription (PPRx) provides fruits, vegetables, and proteins to supplement a member's diet with healthy foods. Nutrition Instruction provides educational strategies to motivate healthy food choices and other nutrition-related behaviors conducive to health and well-being. HRSN Nutrition Supports services are separate from and do not impact the administration of other nutrition-related benefits within the Medicaid program, including nutrition counseling, medical nutrition therapy, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) home-delivered meals, and other related medical services, such as diabetes medication management. HRSN Nutrition Supports services are expected to increase aggregate expenditures by \$420 million under QUEST Integration.

The fee schedule is available for review in Table 1.

¹ QUEST Integration is Hawai'i's Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver. The current QUEST Integration renewal allows the State to continue QUEST Integration for an additional five years, from January 8, 2025, to December 31, 2029.

Table 1: Hawaii Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division (MQD) HRSN Nutrition Supports Fee Schedule

Service Name	Service Description	Unit of Service/Payment	Location	Rate and HCPCS code	Methodology
Produce and Protein Prescription (PPRx)	PPRx (Weekly)² Provision of fruits, vegetables, seeds/seedlings, and proteins	Per encounter	Oahu	\$61.00 (\$50.00 retail food value; \$11.00 administrative fee) HCPCS Code S9977 with modifier U1	Rate developed based on a per-unit food box cost model, inclusive of retail food value and an administrative fee reflecting program staffing, benefits load, and indirect overhead. Rates were modeled separately for O'ahu and all other Neighbor Islands to reflect regional differences in cost inputs.
		Per encounter	Neighbor Islands	\$67.00 (\$55.00 retail food value; \$12.00 administrative fee) HCPCS Code S9977 with modifier U2	Rate developed based on a per-unit food box cost model, inclusive of retail food value and an administrative fee reflecting program staffing, benefits load, and indirect overhead. Rates were modeled separately for O'ahu and all other Neighbor Islands to reflect regional differences in cost inputs.
	PPRx (Monthly) Provision of fruits, vegetables, seeds/seedlings, and proteins	Per encounter	Oahu	\$263.50 (\$215.00 retail food value; \$48.50 administrative fee) HCPCS Code S9977 with modifier U3	Rate developed based on a per-unit food box cost model, inclusive of retail food value and an administrative fee reflecting program staffing, benefits load, and indirect

² PPRx benefits may also be provided on a biweekly (every other week) basis. There is no separate biweekly code or rate; Nutrition Supports Providers leveraging a biweekly cadence should use the weekly billing code and bill for twice the units.

					overhead. Rates were modeled separately for O'ahu and all other Neighbor Islands to reflect regional differences in cost inputs.
		Per encounter	Neighbor Islands	\$292.00 (\$237.00 retail food value; \$55.00 administrative fee) HCPCS Code S9977 with modifier U4	Rate developed based on a per-unit food box cost model, inclusive of retail food value and an administrative fee reflecting program staffing, benefits load, and indirect overhead. Rates were modeled separately for O'ahu and all other Neighbor Islands to reflect regional differences in cost inputs.
	[Add-on] Delivery for PPRx Benefit³ Delivery of PPRx benefit to the member's home	Per encounter ⁴	Oahu	\$14.00 (Add-on fee) HCPCS Code S9977 with modifier U5	Rate developed based on a delivery cost model incorporating driver mileage reimbursement at the 2026 IRS standard mileage rate, driver labor cost, and assumed delivery route productivity. Rates were modeled separately for O'ahu and all other Neighbor Islands to reflect regional differences in labor and travel cost inputs.

³ The add-on for PPRx delivery is limited to one per member per week.

⁴ The add-on for PPRx delivery can only be applied once per delivery for a member, regardless of the number of PPRx food packages that member receives (e.g., a Nutrition Supports Provider can only apply one delivery add-on for member receiving two food packages in a single delivery).

		Per encounter	Neighbor Islands	\$16.50 (Add-on fee) HCPCS Code S9977 with modifier U6	Rate developed based on a delivery cost model incorporating driver mileage reimbursement at the 2026 IRS standard mileage rate, driver labor cost, and assumed delivery route productivity. Rates were modeled separately for O'ahu and all other Neighbor Islands to reflect regional differences in labor and travel cost inputs.
Nutrition Instruction	Individual In-person or telehealth Nutrition Instruction (billed in 30-minute increments; up to 3 units/90 minutes per session)	Time-based	Oahu	\$49.61 per 30 minutes HCPCS Code S9452 with modifier U1	Rate developed based on a staffing model reflecting instructor time per session, including session delivery and preparation/ wrap-up time, and instructor wage rates inclusive of benefits load and indirect overhead. Rates were modeled separately for O'ahu and all other Neighbor Islands to reflect regional differences in cost inputs.
		Time-based	Neighbor Islands	\$59.91 per 30 minutes HCPCS Code S9452 with modifier U2	Rate developed based on a staffing model reflecting instructor time per session, including session delivery and preparation/ wrap-up time, and instructor wage rates inclusive of benefits load and

					indirect overhead. Rates were modeled separately for O'ahu and all other Neighbor Islands to reflect regional differences in cost inputs.
	Group In-person or telehealth group Nutrition Instruction (billed in 30-minute increments; up to 3 units/90 minutes per session)	Time-based	Oahu	\$9.45 per 30 minutes (Cost per participant) HCPCS Code S9452 with modifier U3	Rate developed using the same staffing model as Individual Nutrition Instruction, with cost allocated on a per-participant basis reflecting an assumed average group size. Rates were modeled separately for O'ahu and all other Neighbor Islands to reflect regional differences in cost inputs.
		Time-based	Neighbor Islands	\$11.41 per 30 minutes (Cost per participant) HCPCS Code S9452 with modifier U4	Rate developed using the same staffing model as Individual Nutrition Instruction, with cost allocated on a per-participant basis reflecting an assumed average group size. Rates were modeled separately for O'ahu and all other Neighbor Islands to reflect regional differences in cost inputs.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSION PROCESS

MQD welcomes interested parties to submit comments and concerns about the rate methodology and or the effects no later than 30 days from the time this notice is posted. All comments are subject to public review and disclosure, as are the names of those who comment. Individuals may submit written comments:

By email:

Email: Nutrition-MQD@dhs.hawaii.gov. Please identify in the subject line: *Nutrition Supports Rate Methodology*.

By mail:

Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division
Attention: Health Care Services Branch
P.O Box 700190
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, MED-QUEST DIVISION
MEREDITH NICHOLS
MED-QUEST DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR