

Public Notice – Rate Methodology for Medical Respite, Non-Emergency Medical Transportation for Health-Related Social Needs, and the Kau ‘Ai Pono: Season of Eating Well Pilot

Posted on November 13, 2025

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MED-QUEST DIVISION

NOTICE FOR A PUBLIC NOTICE ON MEDICAL RESPITE RATES, NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION RATES and KAU ‘AI PONO: SEASON OF EATING WELL PILOT 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 medical respite 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 medical respite services, non-medical transportation (NMT) for health-related social needs (HRSN), and the Kau ‘Ai Pono: Season of Eating Well pilot.

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED RATE SETTING

Three new services will be added. Two are permanently added: medical respite, within the Community Integration Services Plus (CIS+) program, and NMT for HRSN services, including CIS+. ² In addition, MQD will implement a short-term pilot program, called the Kau ‘Ai Pono: Season of Eating Well, for fruit and vegetable prescription boxes or protein boxes within nutrition supports.

- **Medical respite services** aim to provide Medicaid members experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness with a safe place to prepare for planned procedures or treatments or to recover and heal following discharge from an institution. Medical respite services provide short-term housing alongside limited clinical or supportive services to members with eligible medical, psychiatric, or substance use disorder-related needs. Medical respite services are expected to increase the annual aggregate expenditures/reimbursement/payment for medical respite providers by \$14 million under QUEST Integration.
- **NMT for HRSN** will provide members with transportation to and from HRSN services, including CIS+. NMT for HRSN is expected to increase the annual aggregate expenditures/reimbursement/payments for transportation by \$12 million.
- **The Kau ‘Ai Pono: Season of Eating Well pilot** will supplement eligible members’ diets with nutritious fruits, vegetables, and proteins. To participate in the pilot and receive its benefits, members must meet social and clinical criteria as outlined in the Section 1115 Demonstration approval. The pilot is expected to

¹ QUEST Integration is Hawai‘i’s Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver. Renewal of QUEST Integration, which allows the state to continue QUEST Integration for an additional five years, began on January 8, 2025.

² NMT for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) is built into managed care capitation rates and not included as part of this notice.

increase the annual aggregate expenditures/reimbursement/payment for services by \$4 million.

The fee schedule is available for review in Table 1.

Table 1: Hawai'i Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division Medical Respite and NMT Fee Schedule

Service Name	Service Description	Unit of Service/ Payment	Rate and HCPCS code	Methodology
<i>Medical Respite</i>				
Short-term Pre-Procedure Housing	Housing and support to those with a planned medical procedure requiring preparatory care or care following planned treatment	Per diem	One bundled payment of \$274.00 S5151 with Modifier SC for pre-procedure S5151 with Modifier SE for post-procedure	Per rate study conducted by Milliman in 2025. Composite rate based on projected staffing, administration, transportation, and room and board costs.
Short-term Recuperative Care	Housing and clinically oriented support to those with ongoing medical and psychiatric needs	Per diem	One bundled payment of \$274.00 S9125 with modifier 22	Per rate study conducted by Milliman in 2025. Composite rate based on projected staffing, administration, transportation, and room and board costs.
Short-term Post-hospitalization Housing	Housing and limited support to members in continued recovery from a physical, psychiatric, or substance use condition following discharge or exit from an institution	Per diem	One bundled payment of \$274.00 S9125 with modifier SC	Per rate study conducted by Milliman in 2025. Composite rate based on projected staffing, administration, transportation, and room and board costs.
<i>Non-Medical Transportation (NMT)</i>				
NMT for HRSN	Pick-up for transportation to and from HRSN services	Per trip (one-way)	One pick-up fee of \$5.25 A0100, modifier U7 to destination, and modifier U8 for from destination	Rates are aligned with Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement levels for ground transportation.

	Wheelchair lift fee for transportation to and from HRSN services	Per trip (one-way)	Additional wheelchair van fee of \$50.00 A0130, modifier U7 to destination, and modifier U8 for from destination	Rates are aligned with Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement levels for ground transportation.
	Stretcher van (for gurney) for transportation to and from HRSN services	Per trip (one-way)	Additional stretcher van fee of \$107.00 A0120, modifier U7 to destination, and modifier U8 for from destination	Rates are aligned with Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement levels for ground transportation.
	Mileage to and from HRSN services	Per mile	\$4.48 per mile S0215, modifier U7 to destination, and modifier U8 for from destination	Rates are aligned with Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement levels for ground transportation.
<i>Kau 'Ai Pono: Season of Eating Well pilot</i>				
Food Benefit	A food box or voucher for fruits, vegetables, and proteins.	Per benefit	\$53 per food benefit S9977	The rate was developed by reviewing similar programs in and outside of Hawaii. The benefit will be calibrated to the payment rate, such that the payment rate defines the benefit.

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:

For medical respite, email: CIS-MQD@dhs.hawaii.gov. Please identify in the subject line: *Medical Respite Rate Methodology*

- For NMT, by email at: CIS-MQD@dhs.hawaii.gov. Please identify in the subject line: *Non-Medical Transportation Rate Methodology*
- For the Kau 'Ai Pono: Season of Eating Well pilot, by email at: nutrition-MQD@dhs.hawaii.gov. Please identify in the subject line: *Kau 'Ai Pono 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
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