



TO: CHC Providers of Live-In Personal Care Assistance Services, Access Agencies, Fiscal Intermediary
RE: Rate for Live-in Personal Care Assistant Service

This is a follow up to our important message issued on 10/30/14 regarding the impact of the Fair Labor Standards Act and Live-In Personal Care Assistant (PCA) services.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) has been in ongoing consultation with the Department of Labor regarding its rate methodology for the live-in service. The methodology that was agreed upon is as follows:

There is an assumption that PCAs are able to sleep at least eight hours. The sleep is not required to be uninterrupted but must total eight hours. An individual's pay will be based on a 16-hour day with no other deductions for time such as meal time or breaks. If a PCA will not be able to sleep at least eight hours, the Access Agencies will be advised that live-in is not an appropriate service.

For these purposes, DSS will be recognizing a minimum allowance for room and board. This standard is estimated to be one hundred dollars per week and will include all housing and utility costs. The Access Agency care managers will complete a worksheet itemizing the housing-related expenditures prior to DSS staff approving the live-in service. This worksheet will be shared with the provider agency. For purposes of valuing board, costs for three meals per day have been estimated at seventeen dollars and fifty cents per day.

The rate is based on 40 hours per week of regular time and 72 hours per week of overtime.

The starting wage for the regular time is permitted to start below minimum wage but must meet the Connecticut minimum wage standard when added to the value of room and board.

DSS' rate methodology has also taken into account that there may be additional documentation requirements of the providers. The per diem rate for procedure code 1023Z – Personal Care Services Agency Per Diem rate will be \$215.01, effective 1/1/15.

The new rate for overnight PCA services (12-hour shift) is \$167.78, effective 1/1/15, for procedure code 1022Z – Personal Care Services: Overnight, Agency. No deductions for sleep time, room or board are permitted in the rate methodology for this service.

This rate does include overtime and is based on an 84-hour work week.

Please contact Kathy Bruni, DSS-Alternate Care Program Manager, with any questions or concerns at Kathy.a.bruni@ct.gov or 860-424-5177.