



State of Vermont  
Agency of Human Services  
280 State Drive, Center Building  
Waterbury, VT 05671-1000

---

# Global Commitment Register

October 1, 2019

---

GCR 19-019  
FINAL

## **Medicaid High Tech Nursing Program Changes**

### **Policy Summary:**

Effective October 1, 2019, the Agency of Human Services has implemented the following changes to the High-Tech Nursing Program. These changes apply to nurses who are directly enrolled in Vermont Medicaid and working outside of a Home Health Agency:

1. Increase the rates paid for Medicaid State Plan High Tech Nursing for nurses enrolled in Vermont Medicaid.
2. Allow parents or legal guardians as providers of nursing services.
3. Require nurses to bill services directly to Medicaid and not through the ARIS payroll vendor.

Further details on these changes can be found under “Additional Information” below.

**Effective Date:** October 1, 2019

### **Authority/Legal Basis:**

This change is being done through Global Commitment to Health waiver authority, where DVHA may establish rates with providers on an individual or class basis without regard to the rates currently set forth in the approved State Plan.

### **[Medicaid State Plan](#)**

**[Global Commitment to Health Waiver](#):** Waiver authority #5 [Section 1902(a)(13), 1902(a)(30)]; Special Term and Condition #29.

### **Population Affected:**

All Medicaid

### **Fiscal Impact:**

The estimated gross annualized budget impact is \$266,986.

### **Public Comment Period:**

The public comment period ended 9/19/19. [Comments received](#) and the [State’s response](#) can be viewed here.

**Additional Information:**

The following State Plan Page was amended:

Attachment 4.19-B

Page 3a

Click here for the [State Plan](#) on the DVHA website.

The rates for State Plan High Tech Nursing Services, effective October 1, 2019 can be found below.

The final Parents and Guardians as Providers of Nursing Services Coverage Policy can be found on the following page.

**RATES**

<b>Registered Nurse (RN) &amp; Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Shifts</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>
RN Day	\$39.78
RN Night/Holiday/Weekend	\$43.76
LPN Day	\$33.81
LPN Night/Holiday/Weekend	\$37.19



## **Vermont Medicaid Policy for Parents and Guardians as Providers of Nursing Services**

### Coverage Policy

- (1) Reimbursement for specialized nursing services may be provided to eligible Medicaid beneficiaries by their parent or legal guardian under the following conditions:
  - (a) The parent or legal guardian:
    - (i) Is a Registered Nurse licensed to work in Vermont.
    - (ii) Is directly enrolled with Vermont Medicaid and adheres to all provider enrollment requirements.
  - (b) The beneficiary is eligible for nursing services under Vermont Medicaid according to Rule 7412, High Tech Nursing Services.
  - (c) Nursing services provided by a parent or legal guardian may not exceed 12 hours per day, up to a maximum of 40 hours per week. Any authorized hours beyond 40 hours per week may be provided through a home health agency or another nurse enrolled with Vermont Medicaid.
  - (d) Families, parents, and legal guardians must adhere to the Medicaid requirements for family-managed nursing services.

### Oversight

- (1) A Registered Nurse from the State will routinely visit the home and conduct case reviews in order to ensure appropriate delivery of services.
- (2) Nurses must maintain clinical documentation of services provided in accordance with the family-managed program manual.

### Limitations

- (1) Reimbursement will not be made for any services that parents or legal guardians are legally obligated to provide. Nothing in this policy exempts the parent or legal guardian from their responsibilities as a primary caregiver.
- (2) Services are limited to nursing care, as authorized by Vermont Medicaid.
- (3) Nursing services provided by a parent or legal guardian may not be provided in place of services covered by liable third-party insurers, including Medicare.
- (4) A parent or legal guardian may not provide services if:
  - (a) It has been determined by the physician or Medicaid that the nursing services provided by the parent or legal guardian is unsafe, or
  - (b) The parent or legal guardian does not deliver medically necessary services in accordance with the needs assessment conducted by the Medicaid-authorized clinical provider.