



## MEMORANDUM

TO: OPWDD Providers

FROM: Donna M. Cater  
Deputy Director, Division of Finance and Rate Setting

DATE: June 5, 2020

SUBJECT: **Group Community Habilitation-Residential (Group CH-R)**

This serves as notification to providers of Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Supervised Residential Habilitation programs that have been impacted by the COVID-19 emergency, specifically the suspension of the provision of Day Habilitation and Prevocational services. Effective March 18, 2020, affected Supervised Residential Habilitation providers will be able to bill a Group CH-R service for the provision of services for individuals that would normally attend a Day Habilitation and/or Prevocational service outside of their agency. These new resources are being provided to support 24/7 care for individuals who would normally leave the home for Day Habilitation and/or Prevocational services provided by another agency on any given day. You can view your agency's Group CH-R rate, and units allowed to be billed, by logging into your agency's OPA account at: [http://www.hcrapools.org/opwdd\\_index.cfm](http://www.hcrapools.org/opwdd_index.cfm).

The July 1, 2019 rates will remain in effect and will continue to be billed for Supervised IRA residents who do not receive Day Habilitation and/or Prevocational services from an agency other than the one providing Residential Habilitation services. Residential Habilitation providers serving individuals who typically receive Day Habilitation and/or Prevocational services from a different agency will bill the Group CH-R rate under existing rates codes and MMIS IDs. OPWDD will be providing specific guidance on the claim submission requirements in a separate correspondence.

The allowable Group CH-R units have been calculated for each affected provider by determining additional staffing hours necessary to accommodate daytime staffing levels all week long for individuals who would otherwise be receiving offsite Day Habilitation and/or Prevocational services at another agency; and applying provider-specific hourly staffing costs to those additional hours. Please note that the Group CH-R rate should be used to allow for an agency to bill for those hours when the individual would have been attending the Day Service outside the home.

Any questions regarding your agency's Group CH-R rates and/or authorized units should be submitted to: [mhrs@health.ny.gov](mailto:mhrs@health.ny.gov). Please include the following information when you submit inquiries: Agency 5-digit Corp ID, Agency Name, Contact Information and DDRO for your agency.

cc: Ms. Kindo  
Mr. Valenchis  
Ms. Howard  
Ms. McManus  
Mr. Pitera