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Subject: L&I Medical Aid Rules and Fee Schedules for 2021

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Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries

Claims & Insurance

Labor & Industries Medical Aid Rules and Fee Schedules (MARFS) for 2021

The Department of Labor & Industries has published the 2021 edition of the Medical Aid Rules and Fee Schedules (MARFS), effective July 1.

The payment policies and fee schedules are available online here:

<https://lni.wa.gov/patient-care/billing-payments/fee-schedules-and-payment-policies/policy-2021>.

Highlights include:

- The 2021 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is 2%,
- The 2021 conversion factor is \$57.90,
- The anesthesia conversion factor is \$54.60 per 15 minutes,
- The daily cap for both Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy services is now \$136.74, *and*
- The daily cap for massage therapy is \$102.56.

Significant policy updates:

- [Chapter 2: Information for All Providers](#) includes clarification around comparator codes, unlisted procedure codes, and split billing.
- [Chapter 5: Audiology and Hearing Services](#) now reflects the Department's tinnitus coverage decision.
- [Chapter 7: Chiropractic Services](#) indicates that chiropractors may now bill all levels of E/M codes.
- [Chapter 10: Evaluation and Management](#) underwent updates to align with the 2021 CPT® changes.
- [Chapter 14: Language Access Services](#) includes several updates; please see

- [Chapter 28: Supplies, Materials, and Bundled Services](#) now specifies that bills without itemized statements for acquisition costs may be denied.
- [Chapter 29: Surgery Services](#) includes a new policy for unlisted surgical procedures.
- [Chapter 30: Vocational Services](#) has an updated Quality Assurance policy, and the Vocational Recovery Fee Cap has been increased.
- [Chapter 33: Brain Injury Rehabilitation Services](#) contains updated CARF accreditation language.
- [Chapter 36: Nursing Home and Residential Facilities](#) now references the Health Insurance Prospective Payment System (HIPPS) coding when processing bills from nursing homes.

New this year, L&I has simplified the professional fee schedule into one spreadsheet and added a search function for your convenience. This file also now includes relevant links to payment policies. Note that these links are for reference only. Not every code has a relevant chapter other than [Chapter 2: Information for All Providers](#). Providers are still required to understand the entirety of MARFS, relevant WACs and RCWs, and CPT®, HCPCS, or local code descriptions. The anesthesia, hospital, facility, and ambulatory surgery center fee schedules are still available separately, as well as a list of local codes by specialty.

Additionally, please note the following:

- Any further Updates and Corrections will be noted in the Updates and Correction webpage here: <https://lni.wa.gov/patient-care/billing-payments/fee-schedules-and-payment-policies/policy-2021#updates-and-corrections>
- Temporary telehealth policies are in effect until December 31, 2021. Read more about these policies on the temporary telehealth policy webpage here: <https://lni.wa.gov/patient-care/billing-payments/fee-schedules-and-payment-policies/policy-2021#temporary-telehealth-payment-policies>
- Reminder: telephone calls are not considered telehealth per L&I's definition of telehealth. L&I reimburses telephone using CPT® codes 99441-99443 or 98966-98968. See [Chapter 10](#) for more details.
- Interpreter services FAQs have been updated. See our [website](#) for more details.

For payment policy and fee schedule questions, please contact HPPM@lni.wa.gov.

