

November 15, 2018

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, EOHHS jointly issued (1) the first of 3 lump sum payments and (2) an **[Advisory Bulletin 18-24](#)** specifying the compliance criteria and reporting requirements for the 2019 Nursing Facility Direct Care Staff Payment Program. The SFY 2019 budget act authorizes the Direct Care Staff Payment at \$38.5 million, a \$2.8 million increase from the prior fiscal year. Facilities must prioritize spending of any direct care staff payment revenue received in SFY 2019 that exceeds the total direct care staff payment revenue received in SFY 2018 on hourly wage increases, shift differentials, or bonuses paid to CNAs and housekeeping, laundry, dietary and activities staff. Each facility can determine this amount by subtracting the total direct care staff payment revenue received in SFY 2018 from the total direct care staff payment revenue listed for the facility for SFY 2019 at:

<https://www.mass.gov/regulations/101-CMR-20600-standard-payments-to-nursing-facilities>.

The 2019 compliance period covers July 2018 through June 2019, and the baseline period remains the same at January 2016 through June 2016. Facilities will be required to complete an interim Compliance Report no later than March 2, 2019 and a final Compliance Report no later than July 31, 2019. Facilities with a total 2019 direct care staff payment amount of \$30,000 or less will be required to submit a single abbreviated compliance report to EOHHS by July 31, 2019.

Please contact [Gary Abrahams](#) if you have questions about the 2019 Direct Care Staff Payment program.