



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
Aging and Long Term-Support Administration  
Management Services Division  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600*

February 17, 2023

**AL TSA: NH Rates #2023-002**

**RE: BARBER AND BEAUTY SERVICES – Updated from NH#2003-032**

Dear Nursing Facility Administrator:

This letter is intended to clarify the reporting of costs related to routine personal hair and nail hygiene services and professional barber and beauty services. The information below is consistent with the federal rule on this subject, 42 CFR 483.10(c)(8)(i)(E) and (ii)(D), as well as with CMS' interpretation of the rule in survey tag number F162.

Routine personal hair and nail hygiene services, when performed by facility employees as part of routine grooming care, are allowable costs to be reported on the facility's Medicaid cost report as routine services. The routine services include, in part, simple haircuts and trims, nail trimming, and nail cleaning. Effective October 1, 1993, these items could not be charged to the resident's personal funds.

Each facility must provide a resident the choice of a simple haircut or trim by a facility employee or a professional haircut by a licensed barber or beautician. If the facility, after making an effort to find employees willing and able to perform simple haircuts and trims, cannot locate any such employees, it must provide this service in some other way at no charge to the resident. For example, the facility could decide to pay, using facility funds, a barber or beautician to do the routine trims. However, if the facility makes this choice, it must not charge the trust fund for those trims. It may include that cost as an allowable cost on the cost report.

If the resident decides against having his or her hair trimmed by a facility employee and understands that the cost of a professional haircut will be charged against his or her trust account, the facility needs to document the resident's decision. This documentation needs to include the fact that the resident knows that they have the right to simple haircuts and trims included in their room and board costs, and that they choose to have and to pay for a professional haircut. If this documentation is not on file, the auditor can require the facility to return the cost of the haircuts to the resident's trust account.

Non-routine services performed by beauticians or barbers, including haircuts, permanents, hair coloring, hair relaxing, nail polishing or any other hair or nail service not routine or basic in nature may be charged to the resident's personal funds, provided all appropriate authorization and consent are obtained.

It may occur that a facility employee providing grooming services is also a licensed barber or beautician. In such an instance, the nature of the service will determine how it should be handled. If the service is a simple haircut or trim that a skilled amateur could perform, it should be reported as a routine service. If the service is more technically demanding and is of a type that

Nursing Facility Administrator  
February 17, 2023  
Page 2

people not living in a nursing facility would ordinarily receive from a licensed barber or beautician, it can be billed against a resident's personal funds, provided all appropriate authorization and consent are obtained.

Since routine personal hair and nail hygiene services are part of the routine daily duties assigned to the facility's employees, no additional expense is incurred. Any hours and associated expense are to be reported on the Medicaid cost report line corresponding to the staff category performing the service.

Non-routine personal hair and nail services must be reported as non-allowable expenses on the Medicaid cost report. This will facilitate the analyst's review of miscellaneous revenue for the offset of related expenses. Assets used in providing barber and beauty services are to be reported as unallowable on the cost report. These expenses and assets are unallowable per WAC 388-96-585 (n).

If you have questions, please contact your analyst. The facility/analyst list is available on our website at <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/management-services-division/nursing-facility-cost-reports>.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Hills, Manager  
Nursing Facility Rates  
Office of Rates Management

cc: Interested Parties