

## **Key Questions & Answers Regarding Reimbursement for Family Members**

### **1. How much will I be reimbursed per hour?**

The reimbursement formula is the same for all family members providing care. However the hourly amount varies based on where you live. The amount is the average hourly rate for a home health aide in your Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as reported by the Virginia Employment Commission's state wage survey. Copies of the current rates and a map of the MSA's are included in this packet.

### **2. How often will I receive the reimbursement?**

The Program reimburses monthly. Of course all the required documentation must be submitted prior to reimbursement.

### **3. How many hours may a family caregiver be paid for each week?**

It depends. A single caregiver may be reimbursed for up to 40 hours per week. However, only up to 12 hours per day may be reimbursed for any one family caregiver. Also see questions 6, 7 and 8.

### **4. Why is a background certification required?**

To assure the safety of claimants.

### **6. Can the allowed hours be added onto current nursing hours?**

No. The hours are in lieu of prescribed nursing/caregiver hours.

### **7. Can I be reimbursed for hours prior to implementation of the benefit and/or completion of all Program requirements?**

No.

### **8. Can I have the physician prescribe more caregiver hours just to allow me to receive reimbursement?**

No. the number of prescribed hours must be based only on medical need noted in the Birth-Injury Act.

**9. After I qualify for reimbursement what do I need to regularly send in?**

- Weekly time sheets (form provided)
- Payment receipts (showing receipt of payment by specific caregiver)
- A monthly report (form provided)

**10. Will receiving the reimbursement cause me to lose other benefits from state or federal sources.**

It may. You will need to check with appropriate experts.

**11. Is the reimbursement taxable?**

Probably. You will need to check with appropriate experts.

**12. Will the reimbursement I receive be reported by the Program to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service?**

Possibly. The issue is being researched by legal counsel.

**13. Does the family caregiver have to stay with the claimant for the hours reimbursed?**

Yes, just like a caregiver hired through an agency would.