

**Subject** Modifying MA Home Care Services

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### Overview

This bill adds care evaluation services as a covered service under medical assistance (MA) home care services, home health agency services, and home care nursing services. The bill also provides an unspecified payment rate increase for certain home care services and establishes a onetime grant program to support the implementation of activities focused on home care staff recruitment and retention.

### Summary

Section	Description
1	<p><b>Definitions.</b></p> <p>Amends § 256B.0651, subd. 1. Defines “care evaluation” in the section of statute governing MA home care services. Makes additional technical and conforming changes.</p> <p>Makes this section effective January 1, 2026, or upon federal approval, whichever is later. Requires the commissioner of human services to notify the revisor of statutes when federal approval is obtained.</p>
2	<p><b>Services covered.</b></p> <p>Amends § 256B.0651, subd. 2. Adds care evaluations to the list of covered services under MA home care services and makes other clarifying changes.</p> <p>Makes this section effective January 1, 2026, or upon federal approval, whichever is later. Requires the commissioner of human services to notify the revisor of statutes when federal approval is obtained.</p>

Section	Description
3	<p data-bbox="318 264 854 296"><b>Limits on services without authorization.</b></p> <p data-bbox="318 310 1398 422">Amends § 256B.0652, subd. 11. Makes clarifying changes to the statute limiting MA home care services without authorization and adds care evaluations to the list of services a recipient may receive without authorization.</p> <p data-bbox="318 457 1398 569">Makes this section effective January 1, 2026, or upon federal approval, whichever is later. Requires the commissioner of human services to notify the revisor of statutes when federal approval is obtained.</p>
4	<p data-bbox="318 611 402 642"><b>Scope.</b></p> <p data-bbox="318 657 1398 726">Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 1. Modifies the scope of home health agency services to include care evaluations.</p> <p data-bbox="318 762 1398 873">Makes this section effective January 1, 2026, or upon federal approval, whichever is later. Requires the commissioner of human services to notify the revisor of statutes when federal approval is obtained.</p>
5	<p data-bbox="318 915 870 947"><b>Noncovered home health agency services.</b></p> <p data-bbox="318 961 1398 1031">Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 6. Makes a conforming change related to adding care evaluations as a covered service under MA home health agency services.</p> <p data-bbox="318 1066 1398 1178">Makes this section effective January 1, 2026, or upon federal approval, whichever is later. Requires the commissioner of human services to notify the revisor of statutes when federal approval is obtained.</p>
6	<p data-bbox="318 1220 545 1251"><b>Care evaluations.</b></p> <p data-bbox="318 1266 1398 1503">Amends § 256B.0653, by adding subd. 9. Specifies that MA covers care evaluations as a home health agency service provided that the recipient’s home health services are not covered under Medicare or any other insurance held by the recipient. Sets the reimbursement rate for care evaluations at 300 percent of the MA reimbursement rate for a skilled nurse visit. Specifies when care evaluations must occur and who may provide care evaluations.</p> <p data-bbox="318 1539 1398 1650">Makes this section effective January 1, 2026, or upon federal approval, whichever is later. Requires the commissioner of human services to notify the revisor of statutes when federal approval is obtained.</p>
7	<p data-bbox="318 1692 545 1724"><b>Care evaluations.</b></p> <p data-bbox="318 1738 1398 1881">Amends § 256B.0654, by adding subd. 6. Specifies that MA covers care evaluations as a home care nursing service provided that the recipient’s home care nursing services are not covered under Medicare or any other insurance held by the recipient. Sets the reimbursement rate for care evaluations at 300 percent of the MA</p>

Section	Description
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reimbursement rate for a skilled nurse visit. Specifies when care evaluations must occur and who must provide care evaluations.

Makes this section effective January 1, 2026, or upon federal approval, whichever is later. Requires the commissioner of human services to notify the revisor of statutes when federal approval is obtained.

**8 Rate increase for certain home care services.**

Requires the commissioner of human services to increase payment rates for home health agency services, home care nursing services, and homemaker services provided under the elderly waiver by an unspecified percentage from the rates in effect on December 31, 2025.

Makes this section effective January 1, 2026, or upon federal approval, whichever is later. Requires the commissioner of human services to notify the revisor of statutes when federal approval is obtained.

**9 Home care careers awareness building; recruitment and retention grant program.**

Establishes a onetime grant program to support the implementation of activities focused on home care staff recruitment and retention.

**Subd. 1. Establishment.** Requires the commissioner of human services to establish a onetime grant program to support the implementation of activities focused on home care staff recruitment and retention.

**Subd. 2. Eligible grant recipients.** Makes licensed home care providers eligible for the grant under this section.

**Subd. 3. Allowable uses.** Lists the allowable uses of grant money under this section.

**Subd. 4. Distribution of grant money.** Requires grants to be distributed no later than January 1, 2026.

**Subd. 5. Report.** Requires grant recipients to submit a report to the commissioner that includes a description of how grant money was used by July 1, 2028.

**Subd. 6. Expiration.** Makes subdivisions 1 to 4 expire January 1, 2028, and makes this subdivision and subdivision 5 expire July 1, 2028.



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