

**RCW 74.46.485 Case mix classification methodology—Notice of implementation.** (1) The legislature recognizes that staff and resources needed to adequately care for individuals with cognitive or behavioral impairments is not limited to support for activities of daily living. Therefore, the department shall:

(a) Employ the resource utilization group IV case mix classification methodology. The department shall use the fifty-seven group index maximizing model for the resource utilization group IV grouper version MDS 3.05, but in the 2021-2023 biennium the department may revise or update the methodology used to establish case mix classifications to reflect advances or refinements in resident assessment or classification, as made available by the federal government. The department may adjust by no more than thirteen percent the case mix index for resource utilization group categories beginning with PA1 through PB2 to any case mix index that aids in achieving the purpose and intent of RCW 74.39A.007 and cost-efficient care, excluding behaviors, and allowing for exceptions for limited placement options; and

(b) Implement minimum data set 3.0 under the authority of this section. The department must notify nursing home contractors twenty-eight days in advance the date of implementation of the minimum data set 3.0. In the notification, the department must identify for all semiannual rate settings following the date of minimum data set 3.0 implementation a previously established semiannual case mix adjustment established for the semiannual rate settings that will be used for semiannual case mix calculations in direct care until minimum data set 3.0 is fully implemented.

(2) The department is authorized to adjust upward the weights for resource utilization groups BA1-BB2 related to cognitive or behavioral health to ensure adequate access to appropriate levels of care.

(3) A default case mix group shall be established for cases in which the resident dies or is discharged for any purpose prior to completion of the resident's initial assessment. The default case mix group and case mix weight for these cases shall be designated by the department.

(4) A default case mix group may also be established for cases in which there is an untimely assessment for the resident. The default case mix group and case mix weight for these cases shall be designated by the department. [2021 c 334 § 991; 2017 c 286 § 1; 2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 4; 2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 9; 2009 c 570 § 2; 1998 c 322 § 22.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—2021 c 334:**  
See notes following RCW 43.79.555.

**Purpose—Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See RCW 74.48.005, 74.48.900, and 74.48.901.

**Analysis—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** "(1) For fiscal years 2012 and 2013 and subject to appropriation, the department of social and health services shall do a comparative analysis of the facility-based payment rates calculated on July 1, 2011, using the payment methodology defined in chapter 74.46 RCW as modified by RCW 74.46.431, 74.46.435, 74.46.437, 74.46.485, 74.46.496, 74.46.501, 74.46.506, 74.46.515, and 74.46.521, to the facility-based payment rates in effect June 30, 2010. If the facility-based payment rate calculated on July 1, 2011, is smaller than the facility-based payment rate on June 30, 2011, the

difference shall be provided to the individual nursing facilities as an add-on payment per medicaid resident day.

(2) During the comparative analysis performed in subsection (1) of this section, if it is found that the direct care rate for any facility calculated under RCW 74.46.431, 74.46.435, 74.46.437, 74.46.485, 74.46.496, 74.46.501, 74.46.506, 74.46.515, and 74.46.521 is greater than the direct care rate in effect on June 30, 2010, then the facility shall receive a ten percent direct care rate add-on to compensate that facility for taking on more acute clients than they have in the past.

(3) The rate add-ons provided in subsection (2) of this section are subject to the reconciliation and settlement process provided in RCW 74.46.022(6)." [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 11.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**Effective date—2009 c 570:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 19, 2009]." [2009 c 570 § 3.]