CMDMG - Volume 1: The Basic Principles Summary of changes from December 2021

Amended chapters October 2026

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Minor amends in paragraph 14016. This change was made to differentiate these effective dates.

Amended chapters August 2026

Chapter 11: Shared Care

Changes have been made to chapter 11 – shared care of the CMDMG due to incorporation of case law EA v SSWP and SA (CMS) [2019] UKUT 149 (AAC). While making this addition additional amendments were identified within the chapter to make things easier to understand for evidence in relation to shared care and how patterns of shared care should be viewed.

Amended chapters May 2026

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Three new paragraphs for effective dates when dealing with newly self employed added at 14016 to 14018.

Amended chapters January 2026

Chapter 5: Meaning of certain terms

Small amendment to paragraph 050067 to reflect the correct chapter for shared care (Chapter 11).

Amended chapters July 2025

Chapter 5: Meaning of certain terms

Multiple amendments to paragraphs 05005 – 05025.

Chapter 15: Service types and methods of payment

Bank Head Office Collections Account (BHOCA) - paragraphs 15035 and 5036 removed.

Amended chapters April 2025

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Amended as follows -

Effective date table 2

Nil rate applied – NRP in prison or serving a sentence of imprisonment detained in hospital - The effective date of the Nil rate and its subsequent removal when the sentence/detainment ended is the date the change was reported.

Effective date table 5 - examples 3 and 4 added

CMS initiated change – change reported by Third Party

Example 3

On 5 March 2024 CIS reports that the NRP has changed address to a prison address. Form CSF314 is issued to the Prison Service to gather further information to consider if the Nil Rate should be applied. On 12 March 2024 the form is returned from the Prison Service confirming that the NRP is in Prison and relevant details. A supersession is made to reduce the MC to Nil. The effective date is 12 March 2024, the date the Prison Service return the form.

Example 4

A NRP is currently listed as DLO. The DM begins trace activity to identify an address and identifies from other government systems that the NRP may be in Prison. On 4 September 2024 Form CSF314 is issued to the Prison Services to gather further information to consider is the Nil Rate should be applied. The form is returned on 12 September 2024 reporting that the NRP has been in Prison since 8 July 2024. A supersession is made to reduce the MC to Nil. The effective date is 12 September, the date the Prison Service returned the form.

Amended chapters March 2025

Chapter 5: Meaning of certain terms

Amendment at **05009** to include a second link for approved education.

Amended chapters January 2025

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Effective date table 7 to include a note as follows:

Note: In line with DMG 14003, If a decision is revised and it is found that the effective date of the original decision was incorrect, the revised decision will take

effect from the date on which the original decision would have taken effect if it had not been wrong.

Amended chapters November 2024

Chapter 15: Service types and methods of payment

Following amendments to chapter 15:

15002 The CMS offer two types of service for payment of child maintenance to the PWC

1. **Direct pay** - following a schedule issued by the CMS, the NRP makes payments directly to the PWC see paragraphs **15007** to **15012**.
2. **Collect and pay** - once the CMS has calculated the child maintenance liability, it then collects payments directly from the NRP to pass onto the PWC. Both clients are issued a payment schedule advising how and when payments must be made, and will be charged for the use of this service.

If clients select the collect and pay service, DMs will arrange the appropriate method of payment (MOP) from the NRP (see paragraphs **15028** to **15040**) and an appropriate MOP to the PWC (see paragraphs **15052** to **15056**).

15009 DMs, if asked, must clearly explain to both parties that they will be responsible for managing their payments on direct pay and that they should keep appropriate records (for example: bank statements to confirm how much has been paid and when. DMs should emphasise the importance of this in case of any future dispute about payments made and received.

15010 If asked by the PWCs DMs should advise that they need to tell the CMS quickly if payments are not received and if they want to change to collect and pay and, or have the arrears collected.

15020 If there are arrears on the case, explain to both parties that the NRP will need to pay the arrears directly to the PWC, as well as the ongoing payments due. Both parties should be advised that it is essential that they keep full records of any arrears payments made or received (such as bank statements in case the case changes back to collect and pay and there is any dispute about the amount of arrears that have been paid.

15023 If a NRP does not agree that payments have been missed, they will need to provide evidence confirming the payments were made. Acceptable evidence for these purposes would include

1. bank statements

2. duplicate(s) of any cashed cheque(s)

Amended chapters October 2024

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Amendment to chapter 14 of the CMDMG effective date table 3, as follows:

Inserted -

or

Child Benefit not in payment due the conditions about presence in Great Britain not satisfied, or where the NRP or their partner has elected not to receive child benefit because they would be liable to the ‘high income child benefit charge’ in income tax. And **Note** deleted.

Chapter 16 - Charging and Application fees

The fee removal aspect of CMDMG Memo 01/24 incorporated at paragraphs 16001, 16002 and 16021.

Amended chapters November 2023

Chapter 5: Meaning of certain terms

Additional information added to Note at para. 05005.

Amended chapters June 2023

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Amendment (words deleted and word inserted) to effective date table 3

Amended chapters April 2023

Chapter 8: Child of the family or child abroad

Note added to paragraph 08008.

Chapter 9: Child supported under family based arrangement (CIFBA)

Note added to paragraph 09016.

Amended chapters July 2022

Chapter 11: Shared Care

Note to para 11003 updated and examples added to para 11008 to assist caseworkers with making decisions regarding share care cases when court orders are in place.

Amended chapters May 2022

Chapter 15: Service types and methods of payment

Section “Direct pay for MOPs for PWC who have experienced domestic abuse” added at paras. 15057 to 15060 and ‘Note’ added to para. 15015.

Amended chapters February 2022

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Amendment to the note at the end of 14015.

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Further amendment made to the note in para. 14015 to better reflect the supersession application when being re-directed via Webchat.

Amended chapters January 2022

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Amendment made to para. 14015 to include a note regarding supersession.

Amended chapters December 2021

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Amendment made to the wording in the first circumstance of effective date table 3 due to some confusion over the date.

Chapter 11: Shared Care

Minor amendment at para. 11003 to include a note.