

Washington State Health Care Authority

Report to the Legislature

Emergency Department Utilization: Hospital Attestation to Best Practices

Third Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2127
Chapter 7, Laws of 2012, 2nd Special Session (Partial Veto)
July 15, 2012

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Executive Summary

Section 213(43) of Third Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2127, enacted as Chapter 7, Laws of 2012, 2nd Special Session (Partial Veto), directs the Health Care Authority (HCA) to submit a list of the hospitals that have declared, through attestation, their implementation of identified best practices to reduce medically unnecessary emergency room visits of Medicaid clients. The report is to be submitted to the legislature by July 15, 2012.

The aforementioned bill states, *“Hospitals participating in this medicaid best practices program shall submit to the authority a declaration from executive level leadership indicating hospital adoption of and compliance with the best practices...If the authority does not receive by July 1, 2012, declarations from hospitals representing at least seventy-five percent of emergency room visits by medicaid clients in fiscal year 2010, the authority may implement a policy of nonpayment of medically unnecessary emergency room visits, with appropriate client and clinical safeguards such as exemptions and expedited prior authorization.”*

This one-time report, Emergency Department Utilization: Hospital Attestation to Best Practices, utilizes 2010 Medicaid utilization data to identify the percentage of Medicaid visits by hospital. Eighty seven hospitals, accounting for 100 percent of 2010 Medicaid visits, have declared their implementation of the identified best practices. Pursuant to the legislative direction, the Health Care Authority will not implement a policy of nonpayment of medically unnecessary emergency room visits.

Results

As of July 1, 2012, 87 hospitals and hospital systems submitted their attestations to the Health Care Authority.

To tabulate the 75 percent of visits by Medicaid clients, data was used from 2010 Medicaid (fee-for-service and Healthy Options) visits with exclusion of patients admitted as inpatient, outpatients transferred to any other hospital facility for inpatient admission; patients in Alien Emergency Medical program, outpatients transferred to any other hospital for outpatient care; and patients who expired during their emergency room visit.

Hospitals Attesting to Best Practices by July 1, 2012

Based on Medicaid Emergency Room Visits 2010

| Name | City | Total Visits | % of Visits | Submitted Attestation |
|--|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Providence Regional Medical Center Everett | Everett | 30,777 | 4.96% | Yes |
| Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital | Yakima | 23,793 | 3.83% | Yes |
| Providence Holy Family Hospital | Spokane | 23,100 | 3.72% | Yes |
| Valley Medical Center | Renton | 21,899 | 3.53% | Yes |
| Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital | Spokane | 21,463 | 3.46% | Yes |
| Highline Medical Center | Burien | 21,442 | 3.45% | Yes |
| Southwest Washington Medical Center | Vancouver | 19,206 | 3.09% | Yes |
| St Joseph Medical Center Peacehealth | Bellingham | 16,671 | 2.69% | Yes |
| Harrison Medical Center | Bremerton | 15,484 | 2.49% | Yes |

| Name | City | Total Visits | % of Visits | Submitted Attestation |
|--|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital | Vancouver | 15,406 | 2.48% | Yes |
| Seattle Children's | Seattle | 15,289 | 2.46% | Yes |
| St. Clare Hospital | Lakewood | 15,214 | 2.45% | Yes |
| St. John Medical Center | Longview | 15,174 | 2.44% | Yes |
| Providence St Peter Hospital | Olympia | 14,970 | 2.41% | Yes |
| Tacoma General Allenmore Multicare | Tacoma | 14,935 | 2.41% | Yes |
| St Joseph Medical Center - Franciscan | Tacoma | 14,925 | 2.40% | Yes |
| Mary Bridge Children's Hospital | Tacoma | 14,689 | 2.37% | Yes |
| Valley Hospital And Medical Center | Spokane Valley | 13,588 | 2.19% | Yes |
| Kadlec Regional Medical Center | Richland | 13,359 | 2.15% | Yes |
| Harborview Medical Center | Seattle | 12,864 | 2.07% | Yes |
| Multicare Good Samaritan Hospital | Puyallup | 12,751 | 2.05% | Yes |
| Sunnyside Community Hospital | Sunnyside | 12,644 | 2.04% | Yes |
| St Francis Community Hospital | Federal Way | 12,606 | 2.03% | Yes |
| Swedish-First Hill/Ballard | Seattle | 12,226 | 1.97% | Yes |
| Yakima Regional Medical And Cardiac Center | Yakima | 12,174 | 1.96% | Yes |
| Deaconess Hospital | Spokane | 11,966 | 1.93% | Yes |
| Lourdes Medical Center | Pasco | 11,492 | 1.85% | Yes |
| Grays Harbor Community Hospital | Aberdeen | 10,700 | 1.72% | Yes |
| Auburn Regional Medical Center | Auburn | 10,386 | 1.67% | Yes |
| Providence Centralia Hospital | Centralia | 9,420 | 1.52% | Yes |
| Kennewick General Hospital | Kennewick | 9,383 | 1.51% | Yes |
| Skagit Valley Hospital | Mount Vernon | 8,344 | 1.34% | Yes |
| Northwest Hospital & Medical Center | Seattle | 7,080 | 1.14% | Yes |
| Olympic Medical Center | Port Angeles | 6,888 | 1.11% | Yes |
| Evergreen Healthcare | Kirkland | 6,871 | 1.11% | Yes |
| Toppenish Community Hospital | Toppenish | 6,664 | 1.07% | Yes |
| Central Washington Hospital | Wenatchee | 5,651 | 0.91% | Yes |
| Valley General Hospital | Monroe | 5,005 | 0.81% | Yes |
| United General Hospital | Sedro Woolley | 4,422 | 0.71% | Yes |
| Prosser Memorial Hospital (PMH) | Prosser | 4,283 | 0.69% | Yes |
| Swedish-Cherry Hill | Seattle | 4,275 | 0.69% | Yes |
| Overlake Hospital Medical Center | Bellevue | 4,242 | 0.68% | Yes |
| Cascade Valley Hospital | Arlington | 4,227 | 0.68% | Yes |
| Mason General Hospital | Shelton | 4,050 | 0.65% | Yes |

| Name | City | Total Visits | % of Visits | Submitted Attestation |
|---|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Samaritan Hospital | Moses Lake | 3,871 | 0.62% | Yes |
| University Of Washington Medical Center | Seattle | 3,544 | 0.57% | Yes |
| Capital Medical Center | Olympia | 3,523 | 0.57% | Yes |
| Othello Community Hospital | Othello | 3,332 | 0.54% | Yes |
| St. Anthony Hospital | Gig Harbor | 3,274 | 0.53% | Yes |
| Swedish Edmonds | Edmonds | 3,250 | 0.52% | Yes |
| Whidbey General Hospital | Coupeville | 3,246 | 0.52% | Yes |
| Mid-Valley Hospital | Omak | 3,189 | 0.51% | Yes |
| Kittitas Valley Community Hospital | Ellensburg | 2,768 | 0.45% | Yes |
| Walla Walla General Hospital | Walla Walla | 2,667 | 0.43% | Yes |
| Providence Mount Carmel Hospital | Colville | 2,495 | 0.40% | Yes |
| Providence St Mary Medical Center | Walla Walla | 2,306 | 0.37% | Yes |
| Jefferson General Hospital | Port Townsend | 2,296 | 0.37% | Yes |
| Mark Reed Hospital | McCleary | 2,092 | 0.34% | Yes |
| Forks Community Hospital | Forks | 1,830 | 0.29% | Yes |
| Island Hospital | Anacortes | 1,781 | 0.29% | Yes |
| Columbia Basin Hospital | Ephrata | 1,776 | 0.29% | Yes |
| Virginia Mason Hospital | Seattle | 1,727 | 0.28% | Yes |
| Ocean Beach Hospital | Ilwaco | 1,379 | 0.22% | Yes |
| St. Elizabeth Hospital | Enumclaw | 1,330 | 0.21% | Yes |
| Newport Community Hospital | Newport | 1,307 | 0.21% | Yes |
| Wenatchee Valley Hospital | Wenatchee | 1,296 | 0.21% | Yes |
| North Valley Hospital-Acute Care | Tonasket | 1,280 | 0.21% | Yes |
| Morton General Hospital | Morton | 1,254 | 0.20% | Yes |
| Tri-State Memorial Hospital | Clarkston | 1,240 | 0.20% | Yes |
| Klickitat Valley Health | Goldendale | 1,190 | 0.19% | Yes |
| Willapa Harbor Hospital | South Bend | 1,041 | 0.17% | Yes |
| Coulee Medical Center | Grand Coulee | 1,009 | 0.16% | Yes |
| Providence St Joseph Hospital | Chewelah | 865 | 0.14% | Yes |
| Pullman Regional Hospital | Pullman | 865 | 0.14% | Yes |
| Lake Chelan Community Hospital | Chelan | 818 | 0.13% | Yes |
| Quincy Valley Medical Center | Quincy | 753 | 0.12% | Yes |
| Three Rivers Hospital | Brewster | 694 | 0.11% | Yes |
| Skyline Hospital | White Salmon | 620 | 0.10% | Yes |
| Lincoln Hospital | Davenport | 526 | 0.08% | Yes |

| Name | City | Total Visits | % of Visits* | Submitted Attestation |
|---|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Snoqualmie Valley Hospital | Snoqualmie | 514 | 0.08% | Yes |
| Whitman Hospital & Medical Center | Colfax | 491 | 0.08% | Yes |
| Ferry County Memorial Hospital | Republic | 484 | 0.08% | Yes |
| Dayton General Hospital | Dayton | 312 | 0.05% | Yes |
| East Adams Rural Hospital | Ritzville | 249 | 0.04% | Yes |
| Garfield County Memorial Hospital | Pomeroy | 164 | 0.03% | Yes |
| Cascade Medical Center | Leavenworth | 117 | 0.02% | Yes |
| Odessa Memorial Healthcare Center | Odessa | 80 | 0.01% | Yes |
| | | | | |
| Total Attestations Submitted | | | 100% | |
| Exclusions: Patients admitted as inpatient; Outpatients transferred to any other hospital facility for inpatient admission; Outpatients transferred to any other hospital for outpatient care; AEM; Expired. Inclusions: Surgery patients not admitted as inpatients; Patients admitted as observation. | | | | |
| *Percentages are identified by the nearest two decimal places. | | | | |

As illustrated above, 100 percent of hospitals declared their participation in the Medicaid best practices, exceeding the identified goal of 75 percent.

The Washington Health Care Authority will continue to focus on implementation of the identified best practices to reduce medically unnecessary emergency room visits. Efforts will be in consultation with the Washington State Hospital Association, the Washington State Medical Association, and the Washington Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. In January 2012, HCA will report whether assumed savings based on preliminary trend and forecasted data are on target and if additional best practices or other actions need to be implemented.