



MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Cathy Weiss
Center for Health Care Facilities Planning and Development

DATE: November 12, 2015

RE: Action on Proposed Permanent Regulations:
Adoption of COMAR 10.24.16: State Health Plan for Facilities and Services –
Home Health Agency Services
Amendment of COMAR 10.24.08: State Health Plan for Facilities and Services –
Nursing Home Services

As you know, Commission staff developed a new draft home health agency (HHA) chapter of the State Health Plan (COMAR 10.24.16), which was discussed at the Commission's September 2015 meeting and posted on the Commission's website. Staff sought informal public comments for a 30-day period through October 30, 2015. Comments were received from three organizations.

At the Commission's November 19, 2015 meeting, staff will discuss the comments received and request that the Commission adopt COMAR 10.24.16. Staff will also request that the Commission amend COMAR 10.24.08 to delete portions of that Chapter pertaining to HHA services, but leaving in place the remainder of that Chapter, which focuses primarily on nursing home services.

Attached are the following documents for your consideration:

1. *Analysis of Informal Public Comments and Staff Recommendations – Draft State Health Plan for Facilities and Services: Home Health Agency Services, COMAR 10.24.16.* The comments are grouped by category and subsection of the HHA Chapter, followed by Staff's analysis and recommendation.
2. Copies of the informal comments received on draft COMAR 10.24.16.

3. ***State Health Plan for Facilities and Services: Home Health Agency Services, COMAR 10.24.16.*** Staff will recommend that the Commission adopt this new Chapter as proposed permanent regulations.

4. ***State Health Plan for Facilities and Services: Nursing Home and Home Health Agency Services, COMAR 10.24.08.*** This is the current Chapter that includes HHA services (in addition to nursing home services). Staff recommends that the Commission amend COMAR 10.24.08 by repealing the portion of the Chapter that deals with HHA services, contingent on the new HHA Chapter (COMAR 10.24.16) becoming effective.

At the Commission meeting, Staff will present its analysis of the informal comments received and Staff's recommendations.