



Thursday, December 19, 2024

MINUTES

Commissioner Sergent called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

Commissioners present via telephone and in person: Agbabiaka, Bhandari, Blake, Boyle, Buczynski, Cheatham, Gelrud, Gilmore, Spinner and Wang.

AGENDA ITEM 1A

ACTION: CONSENT AGENDA

- A.** Approval of Minutes: November 21, 2024
- B.** COMAR 10.25.10 - Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund -- Final Permanent Regulations

Items 1A and 1B were adopted without objection.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Update of Activities

Ben Steffen, Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC or Commission), briefly updated a few reports.

1. Collaborations with Medicaid
 - a. Reimbursement for prostheses and orthotics -- MHCC contribution commercial fee levels
 - b. Reimbursement for Anesthesiologists – MHCC has provided reimbursement rates for anesthesia
2. Report on Access to Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) in payer networks and comparisons to fees in Hospital Outpatient Departments (HOPDs).
 - a. Interim report will be sent to the Legislature
 - b. The final report is due in June 2025

3. Mandate Studies
 - a. Eliminating cost-sharing for cancer genetic testing – was presented at the November 2024 commission meeting
 - b. Coronary Artery Calcium (CAC) Score Testing Bill Analysis
4. Market Concentration and Private Equity

Previously Presented Reported

5. Annual Report on Primary Care Investment Analysis and Recommendations Report
6. Telehealth Coverage and Reimbursement Recommendations
7. Behavioral Health Assessment Report

AGENDA ITEM 3

ACTION: FY2024 Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund Annual Report

Bridgette Zombro and Maxine Traynham presented the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund Annual Report. This report was presented on behalf of the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) and the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC). This report is required to annually report on the status of the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund (Health General Article § 19-130). Mrs. Zombro briefly talked about how The Fund reimburses trauma physicians for uncompensated trauma care as well as reimburses Medicaid for uncompensated trauma care. Trauma center hospitals are reimbursed for on call stipends paid to trauma physicians that treat patients at the respective centers.

Commissioner Boyle moved to APPROVE the FY2024 Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund Annual Report, which was seconded by Commissioner Spinner and, after discussion, unanimously approved.

ACTION: FY2024 Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund Annual Report is hereby APPROVED.

AGENDA ITEM 4

ACTION: Calcium Score Testing - HB1137

Casey Hammer, principal consulting actuary with Milliman, presented the findings of the Calcium Score Testing -HB1137 study. Ms. Hammer talked about the Insurance Article §15-1501, Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that the MHCC annually assess the medical, social, and financial impact of proposed mandated health insurance services that failed to pass during the preceding legislative session or as requested by a Legislator or Legislative Committee by July 1 of each year. MHCC Staff received a formal letter of

request from the House Health and Governmental Operations Committee on April 24, 2024. MHCC staff contracted with Milliman, an actuarial consulting firm, to evaluate the cost of covering calcium score testing for individuals who have at least three of the following four risk factors: (1) diabetes; (2) high blood pressure; (3) high cholesterol; or (4) a family history of premature coronary artery disease.

Commissioner Gelrud moved to APPROVE the Calcium Score Testing - HB1137, which was seconded by Commissioner Buczynski, and after discussion, unanimously approved.

ACTION: Calcium Score Testing - HB1137 is hereby APPROVED.

AGENDA ITEM 5

ACTION: Report on the Adoption of Two-Sided Risk Programs

Gary Swan, Senior Consultant at Freedman Health Care, provided an overview of the Maryland Commercial Fully Insured Market Alternative Payment Model Arrangements Report. Mr. Swan talked about how the Maryland legislature has tasked MHCC with providing a comprehensive analysis of the adoption of the Alternative Payment Model (APM) for residents in the state's fully insured commercial market. This analysis will track progress from 2022 to 2023. In accordance with Chapters 298/297, Senate Bill 834, and House Bill 1148, Health Insurance - Two-Sided Incentive Arrangements and Capitated Payments – Authorization (2022), the MHCC has addressed key outcomes, including the number and types of value-based arrangements, quality of outcomes, complaints, cost-effectiveness, and the impact of two-sided incentive arrangements on healthcare providers.

Commissioner Boyle moved to APPROVE the Report on the Adoption of Two-Sided Risk Programs, which was seconded by Commissioner Bhandari, and after discussion, unanimously approved.

ACTION: Report on the Adoption of Two-Sided Risk Programs is hereby APPROVED.

AGENDA ITEM 6

PRESENTATION: HMO Payments to Non-Par Providers - HB570

Mahi Konjit-Solomon provided an overview of the study's findings and next steps. In 2024, the MHCC undertook a comprehensive study on provider payments and network participation, addressing the impact of HB570/SB487, legislation introduced by ranking member of HGO Delegate Nicholas Kipke. Despite complex data challenges, the team has successfully compiled detailed findings to inform policy discussions. The final report is still under development and staff will release the final report after the January meeting. The final report will be discussed in early January.

ACTION REQUESTED: NONE

AGENDA ITEM 7

OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Mr. Steffen previewed January's Commission meeting. He stated that there would be an action item on a certificate of ongoing performance, action items on COMAR 10.24.20 State Health Plan, and COMAR 10.24.01 Procedural Regulations for Health Care Facilities and Services. Mr. Steffen also stated that there may be a couple more items presented for January.

ACTION REQUESTED: NONE

AGENDA ITEM 8

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sergent asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. upon the motion of Commissioner Buczynski and second by Commissioner Boyle.