

Handout #1 Revised Draft Policy Statements

The broad policies included in State Health Plan chapters are intended to guide the Commission's regulation of the supply and distribution of acute care hospital services in Maryland and serve as a foundation for the specific standards of this State Health Plan chapter.

Policy 1: Acute care hospital services shall be provided in the most safe and cost-effective manner possible consistent with meeting the healthcare needs of patients and communities.

Policy 2: Acute hospital services shall be accessible to all who need them. Hospitals and health systems will strive to reduce barriers to hospital services for underserved populations that stem from factors that include, but are not limited to, finances, geography, race, ethnicity, or gender.

Policy 3: Specialized acute care services should be provided on a coordinated, regional basis.

Policy 4: All hospitals and health systems will continuously and systematically work to improve the quality and safety of patient care. This includes planning, implementing, and optimizing the use of electronic health record systems and exchange of electronic health information, including clinical data, to provide high quality, cost-effective, and patient-centered care.

Policy 5: All hospitals and health systems will consider smart and sustainable growth policies as well as green design principles in hospital siting decision and facility design choices.

Policy 6: The Certificate of Need program will coordinate its capital project review activities with the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) in order to streamline the CON review process and ensure that HSCRC's fiscal goals for Maryland's hospitals, consistent with the Total Cost of Care Model, will be met.