

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES

October 2025

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

- On September 23rd, a Governor’s Directive created the Regulatory Working Group composed of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA), the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE), and the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), to achieve the goals under the AHEAD model. An initial plan is to be submitted to the Governor by October 10th.
- MHCC, in collaboration with other state agencies, reviewed the draft agreement for AHEAD. MHCC would be charged with setting the Primary Care Investment target. There are also “choice and competition” options that the state must elect before January 1, 2027.

The state must select one policy option from (1) and one policy option from (2) below

1. Promoting choice, which includes the following options:
 - a. Implementing Medicaid site neutrality;
 - b. Improving access to new and/or additional modes of care delivery via telehealth;
 - c. Advancing prescription drug price transparency; or
 - d. Prohibiting the use of non-compete clauses to increase provider mobility.
 2. Promoting competition, which includes the following options:
 - a. Modifying scope of practice restrictions, including for physician assistants and nurse practitioners;
 - b. Repealing certificate of need (CON) requirements for all non-hospital settings;
 - c. Expanding access to care by revising network adequacy provisions in compliance with federal requirements; or
 - d. Expanding contracting flexibilities by repealing any-willing provider laws.
- The primary care and utilization management reports were released publicly after approval during the September commission meeting.
 - For the 2026 legislative session, we have submitted our legislative packet related to ASAM 3.7 Intermediate Care Facilities to the Governor’s Legislative Office. The draft is a slight modification of HB 1515 introduced during the 2025 legislative session. We have also submitted a placeholder on possible legislation that would expand MHCC’s authority over mergers and acquisitions of non-hospital healthcare facilities that we regulate and provider practices and groups.
 - Work on the website redesign is ramping up. We are beginning work on the content. We will be putting out an RFP for a communication consultant to help edit our content to fit the new design. We hope to be able to have the new website online by Spring 2026.

Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund

Uncompensated Care Claims

SCAS Management Group (SMG), the third-party administrator for the Trauma Fund processed \$79,210.51 in uncompensated care claims through September 2025. All claims processing is up to date.

Stand-By

The Commission processed the Children’s National Hospital annual request for reimbursement of physicians stand-by cost for FY 2026. A payment of \$900,00.00 will be issued to the trauma center.

On-Call

The new On-Call Web Portal is currently receiving requests for the 2025 January – June on-call period. The portal allows trauma centers to submit their request for reimbursement of physicians’ hours on-call up to the maximum hours per the center’s trauma level. The cut-off date to submit requests for that submission period is October 17, 2025.

Internet Utilization

MHCC Website The MHCC website (<https://MHCC.maryland.gov>) had 2,821 during the month of September 2025.

WTC Website had 209 visitors during the month of September 2025.

Maryland Quality Reporting

Maryland Quality Reporting

Maryland Quality Reporting had 1,420 total users in September, slightly fewer than the previous month’s website traffic. The number of pages viewed per session stayed steady at 58. The average session duration increased to a new high of 9 minutes and 5 seconds, showing that users are spending more time with the website’s content (compared to 3 minutes and 43 seconds during the same period last year). Maryland 211 and Howard County Government referred at least 20 users to the site. Facebook remained the primary social media referral source.

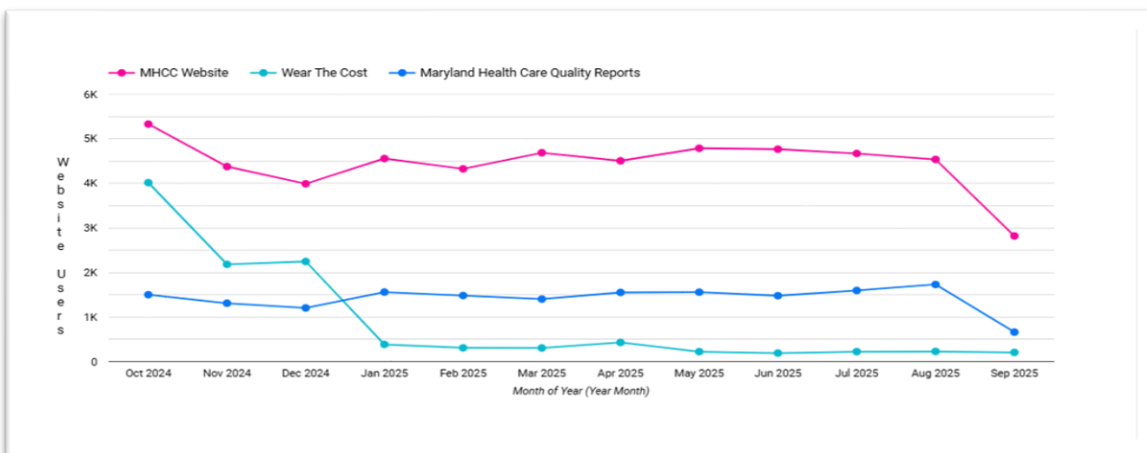


Figure 1 shows the number of website users over a 12-month period for each of the three websites maintained by Commission staff. Specific information about each website is listed above.

CENTER FOR ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- CAIS is pleased to announce that the 2024 MCDB data is now available for authorized users. This data has successfully passed all validation checks for 2024. Onpoint delivered the HSCRC standard analytical file (SAF) in mid-September. The HSCRC SAF is a subset of the MCDB data, formatted and standardized according to the HSCRC's specifications. This file is used by HSCRC staff and contractors for various purposes, including total cost of care and policy evaluation.
- The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) is collaborating with Milliman actuarial consultants to analyze the implications of eliminating cost-sharing for ovarian cancer screening as per SB 518 and HB 1366.

CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Annual Hospital Surveys of Service Capacity and Licensed Beds for FY 2026

- The annual hospital surveys to Maryland's 42 acute care general hospitals and 27 special hospitals, and a second supplemental survey are complete. The surveys require hospitals to report on capacity across different service lines and utilization in the prior year and the data is compiled in a Chartbook that is available on the Commission website. The Chartbook is 95% complete and is anticipated to be posted by the end of the year. Examples of the type of information that hospitals are requested to report include number of licensed, staffed and physical beds; the total number of surgery minutes, types of operating rooms available, capacity for specific acute psychiatric services, and utilization of outpatient psychiatric programs.

Additional activities:

- **1 Acquisition/Change of Ownership (Non ASC):**
The Division has received a real estate property only nursing home acquisition for Williamsport Nursing and Rehabilitation in Washington County, Maryland, which anticipates closing on December 1, 2025.
- **3 Determinations of Coverage:**
 - Clearway Surgery Center of Prince Frederick, LLC (Change of Ownership)
 - Ruxton SurgiCenter, LLC (Change of Ownership)
 - Washington Vein Clinic (New ASC)
- **1 Project Change Post-Commission Approval:**
UM Shore Medical Center at Easton (Docket No.:23-20-2463 & 23-20-CC042)

CENTER FOR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATIVE CARE DELIVERY

- Amendments to existing regulatory frameworks are advancing. COMAR 10.25.07, *Certification of Electronic Health Networks and Medical Care Electronic Networks* (EHNs), is anticipated to be finalized in December and supports legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2021. The amendments specify that EHNs must submit certain electronic health care transactions to the State-designated health information exchange (HIE) and clarify that the information may be used to support the State’s participation in the AHEAD Model. Draft amendments to COMAR 10.25.17, *Benchmarks for Preauthorization of Health Care Services*, are currently under consideration and include provisions requiring that coverage criteria used by payors to determine medical necessity be publicly available and grounded in widely accepted treatment guidelines and high-quality clinical literature.
- An assessment is underway of technology vendors (includes HIEs and EHNs) biannual updates on compliance with COMAR 10.25.18.04C, *Access, Use, or Disclosure of Sensitive Health Information*. The regulation requires vendors to filter and restrict legally protected health information (i.e., abortion and gender-affirming care, as defined by COMAR 10.11.08, *Abortion Care Disclosure*). While nearly all vendors are able to block the required codes, many are still in the process of implementing technology to block associated text and support directed consent.
- A Learning Network virtual forum was held on September 19th in partnership with MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society. The session included an overview of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Advanced Primary Care Management service codes, along with provider perspectives on tailoring primary care teams to meet the diverse needs of specific populations. Collaboration is underway with three Federally Qualified Health Centers to record sessions that highlight innovative care models for vulnerable populations, which will be featured on the Beyond the Textbook: Real-World Medicine and Case Studies webpage.

CENTER FOR QUALITY MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

- Data collection on health care worker influenza vaccinations in long-term care settings—including hospices, home health agencies, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities—began on October 1, 2025. These data are also collected from hospitals and ambulatory surgery facilities to promote patient safety and informed decision making
- MDH released Phase 2 of the Maryland Maternal Health Hospital Report Card on October 1, 2025. Staff worked closely with MDH on this initiative and will provide a brief update during the Commission meeting. The report card is available [here](#).
- Staff attended the Carroll County Aging Your Way Expo, engaging with an estimated 2,000 attendees and distributing materials to raise awareness of the Maryland Quality Reporting website and other available resources.