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## Uniform Hospital Rate Increase Program

### Overview

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is currently seeking approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement the Uniform Hospital Rate Increase Program (UHRIP) for hospital services beginning September 1, 2017. If approved, the rate increases would reduce hospitals' Medicaid shortfall in the managed care service delivery areas in which the program is implemented.

The **UHRIP Information and Checklist (.pdf)** provides further information to hospitals and governmental entities within a Medicaid managed-care service delivery area (SDA) in (1) understanding the uniform rate increase proposal; (2) evaluating the feasibility and benefits of implementing uniform rate increases within their SDAs; and (3) timely submitting the required information for HHSC to determine whether a rate increase can be implemented in the SDA beginning September 1, 2017.

### UHRIP Participation Application

In order for a hospital to participate in UHRIP for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2017, HHSC must receive the following information no later than March 1, 2017, for hospitals in an SDA to be considered to receive uniform rate increases for Medicaid managed care services provided on or after September 1, 2017:

- The identity of the sponsoring governmental entities;

- The name and contact information of the person who will be the primary liaison between the sponsoring governmental entities and HHSC;

- The classes of hospital that the governmental entities prefer to sponsor;

- The type of service (inpatient, outpatient, or both) that the sponsoring governmental entities request be subject to the rate increase;

- The percentage of rate increase the sponsoring governmental entities want to support for each class of hospital for the first six months of the fiscal year;

- The amount of funds the sponsoring governmental entities agree to transfer for the first six months of the fiscal year; and

If an SDA has more than one sponsoring governmental entity, the governmental entities must work cooperatively to provide a unified proposal to HHSC. The governmental entities will not be allowed to request different percentage rate increases for the same class of hospitals or for individual hospitals within a class. If the proposal is approved, the governmental entities will be allowed to make separate transfers to HHSC.

SDAs with hospitals wishing to participate in UHRIP must complete the **online application**. Only one application is to be submitted per SDA.

### Methodology / Rules

The public comment period for proposed program rules has closed. The proposed rules are currently being finalized and are still available for viewing at Title 1 of the Texas Administrative Code, Part 15, Chapter 353, SubChapter O, Rules 1301 and 1305.

#### **PROPOSED RULE §353.1301 General Provisions**

#### **PROPOSED RULE §353.1305 Regional Uniform Rate Increases for Hospital Services**

Written comments on the proposal may be submitted to Monica Leo, Staff Counsel, Brown Heatly Building, MC: 1100, 4900 North Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78714-9030; by fax to (512) 424-6586; or by e-mail to [Monica.Leo@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:Monica.Leo@hhsc.state.tx.us) within 30 days of publication of this proposal in the *Texas Register*. A public hearing is scheduled for February 1, 2017, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. (Central Time) in the Public Hearing Room, Brown Heatly Building, 4900 North Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78714-9030.

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