

NOTICES OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Notices of Public Information contain corrections that agencies wish to make to their notices of rulemaking; miscellaneous rulemaking information that does not fit into any other category of notice; and other types of information required by statute to be published in the *Register*. Because of the variety of material that is contained in a Notice of Public Information, the Office of the Secretary of State has not established a specific format for these notices.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM (AHCCCS)

[M14-278]

- 1. Name of the agency:** Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
- 2. The Topic of the public information notice:** AHCCCS Fee-For-Service Rate Update - effective October 1, 2014
- 3. The public information relating to the topic:**

This Notice describes final rate changes to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment (AHCCCS) Fee-For-Service (FFS) reimbursement effective October 1, 2014. The AHCCCS Administration posted a Notice of Public Information on August 28, 2014 describing the proposed rates for October 1, 2014 and which provided the public the opportunity to submit comments through September 29 regarding the proposed rates. The total change in FFS payments as a result of the increases to rates effective October 1, 2014 is an estimated increase of \$5,156,000 for the time period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. A summary of the final FFS rates is provided below.

For dates of service on and after October 1, 2014:

Transplant contracted rates will be increased 2.57% to address access to care needs.

Behavioral Health rates, including inpatient, outpatient, and community-based, will be increased by 2.0% to match increases implemented by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Division of Behavioral Health Services.

Emergency Ground Ambulance rates regulated by ADHS will have increased aggregate provider payments by 11.3% due to the combined effect of ADHS rate increases and the statutory requirement that AHCCCS reimburse 74.74% of the ADHS provider rates.

Nursing Facility per diem rates will be increased by 2.0% pursuant to House Bill 2703.

Home and Community Based Services rates will be increased by 2.0% to address federally-mandated cost increases, and improvements in the Arizona economy leading to challenges hiring and retaining direct care staff.

Ambulatory Surgery Center rates will be increased by 6.4% in aggregate, reflecting changes to the Medicare reimbursement rates on which they are based.

Physician Drug Schedule rates will be increased by 4.2% in aggregate to address changes in drug prices.

Physician Fee Schedule rates will be updated for a 0.0% aggregate impact.

Clinical Laboratory rates will be decreased by -0.7% in aggregate, reflecting changes to the Medicare reimbursement rates on which they are based.

DMEPOS rates will be increased by 0.4% in aggregate, reflecting changes to the Medicare reimbursement rates on which they are based.

Outpatient Hospital Fee Schedule rates will be updated for a 0.0% aggregate impact.

For Inpatient Hospital Payments with dates of discharge on and after October 1, 2014:

Inpatient hospital services for the majority of hospitals will be paid using the All Patient Refined (APR)-DRG system in order to further AHCCCS' goals of enhancing quality of member care and health outcomes, and promoting efficient delivery of services. Detailed information about inpatient hospital payments, including DRG payments, is delineated in AHCCCS administrative rules which are available on the AHCCCS website at the following link:

<http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/Downloads/UnpublishedRules/NOFRFinalDRG.pdf>

Certain hospitals will be paid using an alternative payment methodology. Also refer to the above link for additional information regarding payments for those hospitals not subject to the APR-DRG rates. Inpatient hospital rates have been updated for these payment methodology changes with a 0.0% aggregate impact.

More information regarding these changes to reimbursement can be obtained from the AHCCCS website at: <http://www.azahcccs.gov/commercial/ProviderBilling/rates/rates.aspx>.

Notices of Public Information

Many public libraries offer access to the internet. In addition, the information can be obtained at the Offices of the AHCCS Administration, 701 E. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85034.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM (AHCCCS)

[M14-279]

1. Name of the agency: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

2. The Topic of the public information notice: Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding for FY 2015

3. The public information relating to the topic:

Despite the absence of State funding for Graduate Medical Education (GME) for FY 2015, AHCCCS is authorized pursuant to ARS 36-2903.01(G)(9)(f), to permit political subdivisions, tribal governments and public universities to provide matching funds to draw down federal dollars to support the costs of GME programs at designated hospitals via Intergovernmental Agreements. The pool structure and methodology described in AHCCCS Rule R9-22-712.05 used to determine a hospital's allocation of GME monies remains unchanged. Hospitals that do not receive matching funds from a political subdivision, tribal government or public university and do not have final intergovernmental agreements to AHCCCS by August 15, 2015, will not receive 2015 GME funds.

More information can be obtained from the AHCCCS website under "Notice of GME/IME Funding Opportunities" at: <http://www.azahcccs.gov/commercial/HospitalSupplements/GMEpayments.aspx>

Please direct any written comments, which must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 24, 2014, to:

Michael Veit, Contracts and Purchasing Manager

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

701 E. Jefferson St.

Phoenix, Arizona 85034

<http://www.azahcccs.gov/commercial/ProviderBilling/rates/rates.aspx>