



NOTICES OF PROPOSED EXEMPT RULEMAKING

This section of the Arizona Administrative Register contains Notices of Proposed Exempt Rulemaking. An agency may be exempt from rulemaking standards outlined in the Arizona Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

An agency's exemption is listed in the Preamble of the rulemaking as specified under: A.R.S. §§ 41-1005 or 41-1057; or a specific statute; or if a rule is promulgated by the Corporation Commission, it is exempt from Attorney General review under a court decision as determined by the Commission.

If an agency determines it is exempt under the law or court decision, the law may still require publication of the Proposed Exempt Rulemaking in this section to solicit and review public comments on the rulemaking.

Some agencies, even though completely exempt, may still elect to follow certain provisions of the APA, such as circulating its exempt rulemaking for comment. If an agency chooses this option, our office encourages filing the notice with our office for publication in the Register.

Please note, if a statute dictates that an agency is completely exempt from the rulemaking process, the agency is authorized to file a Notice of Exempt Rulemaking.

In all cases, an agency must still follow the procedures as established by our office in order to have its rulemaking package published.

The Office of the Secretary of State is the filing office and publisher of these rules. Questions about the interpretation of the proposed exempt rule should be directed to the agency proposing them. Refer to Item #5 of the Preamble to contact the person charged with the rulemaking.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED EXEMPT RULEMAKING

TITLE 9. HEALTH SERVICES

CHAPTER 22. ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM (AHCCCS) ADMINISTRATION

PREAMBLE

[R15-14]

- 1. Article, Part, or Section Affected (as applicable) R9-22-730 Rulemaking Action Amend
2. Citations to the agency's statutory rulemaking authority to include the authorizing statute (general) and the implementing statute (specific): Authorizing statute: A.R.S. § 36-2901.08 Implementing statute: A.R.S. § 36-2901.08
3. Citations to all related notices published in the Register as specified in R1-1-409(A) that pertain to the record of the proposed rule: None
4. The agency's contact person who can answer questions about the rulemaking: Name: Mariaelena Ugarte Address: AHCCCS Office of Administrative Legal Services 701 E. Jefferson, Mail Drop 6200 Phoenix, AZ 85034 Telephone: (602) 417-4693 Fax: (602) 253-9115 E-mail: AHCCCSRules@azahcccs.gov Web site: www.azahcccs.gov
5. An agency's justification and reason why a rule should be made, amended, repealed or renumbered, to include an explanation about the rulemaking: A.R.S. § 36-2901.08 authorizes the Administration to establish, administer and collect an assessment on hospital revenues, discharges or bed days for funding a portion of the nonfederal share of the costs incurred beginning January 1, 2014, associated with eligible persons added to the program by A.R.S. §§ 36-2901.01 and 36-2901.07. It is the agency's objective to assess only so much as is necessary to meet the estimated costs associated with the projected populations referenced in the statute. As such, it is necessary for the Administration to adjust the assessment from time to time as the Administration obtains new information to update estimations of the number of eligible persons and projections of the costs anticipated to provide coverage for those persons. The Administration is pro-



posing a new rule to update the figures to be used as of April 1, 2015 for collecting the assessment on hospitals.

Laws 2013, 1st Special Session, Chapter 10 added an exemption to the Administrative Procedure Act for purposes of the administration and implementation of the hospital assessment:

A.R.S. § 41-1005 (A)(32) exempts the Administration from Title 41, Chapter 6 of the Arizona Revised Statutes (the Arizona Administrative Procedure Act) for purposes of implementing and establishing the hospital assessment; however, that provision requires the Administration to provide public notice and an opportunity for public comment at least 30 days before doing so.

**6. A reference to any study relevant to the rule that the agency reviewed and proposes either to rely on or not to rely on in its evaluation of or justification for the rule, where the public may obtain or review each study, all data underlying each study, and any analysis of each study and other supporting material:**

Information regarding the Administration's estimations of the number of eligible persons described in A.R.S. 36-2901.01, and the associated cost of care for those persons, is included in the Administration's State Fiscal Year budget submittal which is available for inspection at the offices of the Administration and the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning & Budget.

**7. A showing of good cause why the rulemaking is necessary to promote a statewide interest if the rulemaking will diminish a previous grant of authority of a political subdivision of this state:**

Not applicable

**8. The preliminary summary of the economic, small business, and consumer impact:**

The Administration had previously estimated that \$233 million would need to be collected from Arizona hospitals to fund the cost required by statute for State Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015. To date, the Administration has collected about \$175 million in assessments for the current state fiscal year. Based on more current information, the Administration estimates that \$270 million will be needed for the costs associated with the State Fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. To ensure that adequate funds are collected through the assessment to cover the anticipated costs for the current fiscal year, the Administration is adjusting the rates applicable to the quarterly assessment.

The Administration will continue to review enrollment data to update its estimates of future fiscal requirements. At this time, the Administration anticipates that it will be issuing a separate rule amendment in the future to revise the rates for the assessments that will be invoiced after the quarter ending June 2015.

The AHCCCS program is jointly funded by the State and the federal government through the Medicaid program. Depending on the eligibility category of the individual, the federal government provides approximately two-thirds, 85%, or 100% of the cost of care for persons described in A.R.S. § 36.2901.08(A). The Administration will use the amounts collected from the assessment combined with the federal financial participation to fund the cost of health care coverage for an estimated 360,000 persons described in A.R.S. § 36.2901.08(A) through direct payments to health care providers and capitation payments to managed care organizations that, in turn, make payments to health care providers that render care to AHCCCS members. Many of the providers of that medical care are considered small businesses located in Arizona. A.R.S. § 36-2901.08 prohibits the assessed hospitals from passing the cost of the assessment on to patients or third parties who pay for care in the hospital. In the aggregate, the Administration expects to return millions more in State Fiscal Year 2015 in incremental payments for hospital services than will be collected through the assessment. Along with a copy of this proposed exempt rule making, the Administration has posted to its website information regarding the fiscal impact of this amendment. <http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/state/proposedrules.aspx>

**9. The agency's contact person who can answer questions about the economic, small business and consumer impact statement:**

Name: Mariaelena Ugarte  
Address: AHCCCS Office of Administrative Legal Services  
701 E. Jefferson, Mail Drop 6200  
Phoenix, AZ 85034  
Telephone: (602) 417-4693  
Fax: (602) 253-9115  
E-mail: AHCCCSRules@azahcccs.gov  
Web site: www.azahcccs.gov

**10. The time, place, and nature of the proceedings to make, amend, repeal, or renumber the rule, or if no proceeding is scheduled, where, when, and how persons may request an oral proceeding on the proposed rule:**

Proposed rule language will be available on the AHCCCS website ([www.azahcccs.gov](http://www.azahcccs.gov)) the week of March 13, 2015. Please send written or email comments to the above address by the close of the comment period, 5:00 p.m., April 13, 2015.



**11. All agencies shall list other matters prescribed by statute applicable to the specific agency or to any specific rule or class of rules. Additionally, an agency subject to Council review under A.R.S. §§ 41-1052 and 41-1055 shall respond to the following questions:**

No other matters have been prescribed.

**a. Whether the rule requires a permit, whether a general permit is used and if not, the reasons why a general permit is not used:**

Not applicable

**b. Whether a federal law is applicable to the subject of the rule, whether the rule is more stringent than federal law and if so, citation to the statutory authority to exceed the requirements of federal law:**

Not applicable

**c. Whether a person submitted an analysis to the agency that compares the rule’s impact of the competitiveness of business in this state to the impact on business in other states:**

No analysis was submitted.

**12. A list of any incorporated by reference material as specified in A.R.S. § 41-1028 and its location in the rules:**

None

**13. The full text of the rules follows:**

**TITLE 9. HEALTH SERVICES**

**CHAPTER 22. ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM (AHCCCS) ADMINISTRATION**

**ARTICLE 7. STANDARDS FOR PAYMENTS**

Section

R9-22-730. Hospital Assessment

**ARTICLE 7. STANDARDS FOR PAYMENTS**

**R9-22-730. Hospital Assessment**

A. For purposes of this Section, the following terms are defined as provided below unless the context specifically requires another meaning:

1. “2011 Medicare Cost Report” means:
  - a. The Medicare Cost Report for the hospital fiscal year ending in calendar year 2011 as reported in the CMS Healthcare Provider Cost Reporting Information System (HCRIS) release dated December 31, 2012; or
  - b. For hospitals not included in that CMS HCRIS report, the “as filed” Medicare Cost Report for the hospital fiscal year ending in calendar year 2011 submitted by the hospital to the Administration.
2. “2011 Uniform Accounting Report” means the Uniform Accounting Report submitted to the Arizona Department of Health Services as of December 19, 2012.
3. “2012 Uniform Accounting Report” means the Uniform Accounting Report submitted to the Arizona Department of Health Services as of August 2, 2013.
4. “Quarter” means the three month period beginning January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 of each year.

B. Beginning January 1, 2014, for each Arizona licensed hospital not excluded under subsection (I) shall be subject to an assessment payable on a quarterly basis. The assessment shall be levied against the legal owner of each hospital as of the first day of the quarter, and except as otherwise required by subsections (D), (E) and (F). For the period of ~~July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015~~ beginning April 1, 2015, the assessment shall be calculated by multiplying the number of discharges reported on the hospital’s 2011 Medicare Cost Report, excluding discharges reported on the Medicare Cost Report as “Other Long Term Care Discharges” by the following rates based on the hospital’s peer group:

1. ~~\$387.00~~ \$635.00 per discharge for hospitals located in a county with a population less than 500,000 that are designated as type: hospital, subtype: short-term.
2. ~~\$387.00~~ \$635.00 per discharge for hospitals designated as type: hospital, subtype: critical access hospital.
3. ~~\$96.75~~ \$158.75 per discharge for hospitals designated as type: hospital, subtype: long term.
4. ~~\$96.75~~ \$158.75 per discharge for hospitals designated as type: hospital, subtype: psychiatric, that reported 2,500 or more discharges on the 2011 Medicare Cost Report.
5. ~~\$309.00~~ \$508.50 per discharge for hospitals designated as type: hospital, subtype: short-term with 20% ~~or more~~ of total licensed beds licensed as pediatric, pediatric intensive care and neonatal intensive care as reported in the hospital’s 2012 Uniform Accounting Report.
6. ~~\$348.25~~ \$571.25 per discharge for hospitals designated as type: hospital, subtype: short-term with at least 10% but less than 20% of total licensed beds licensed as pediatric, pediatric intensive care and neonatal intensive care as reported in the hospital’s 2012 Uniform Accounting Report.
7. ~~\$387.00~~ \$635.00 per discharge for hospitals designated as type: hospital, subtype: short-term not included in another peer group.



- C. Peer groups for the four quarters beginning July 1 of each year are established based on hospital license type and subtype designated in the Provider & Facility Database for Arizona Medical Facilities posted by the Arizona Department of Health Services Division of Licensing Services on its website March 1, 2013.
- D. Notwithstanding subsection (B), psychiatric discharges from a hospital that reported having a psychiatric sub-provider in the hospital's 2011 Medicare Cost Report, are assessed a rate of ~~\$96.75~~ \$158.75 for each discharge from the psychiatric sub-provider as reported in the 2011 Medicare Cost Report. All discharges other than those reported as discharges from the psychiatric sub-provider are assessed at the rate required by subsection (B).
- E. Notwithstanding subsection (B), rehabilitative discharges from a hospital that reported having a rehabilitative sub-provider in the hospital's 2011 Medicare Cost Report, are assessed a rate of \$0 for each discharge from the rehabilitative sub-provider as reported in the 2011 Medicare Cost Report. All discharges other than those reported as discharges from the rehabilitative sub-provider are assessed at the rate required by subsection (B).
- F. Notwithstanding subsection (B), for any hospital that reported more than 29,000 discharges on the hospital's 2011 Medicare Cost Report, discharges in excess of 29,000 are assessed a rate of ~~\$38.75~~ \$63.75 for each discharge in excess of 29,000. The initial 29,000 discharges are assessed at the rate required by subsection (B).
- G. Assessment notice. On or before the 15th day of the quarter, the Administration shall send to each hospital a notification that the assessment invoice is available to be viewed on a secure website. The invoice shall include the hospital's peer group assignment and the assessment due for the quarter.
- H. Assessment due date. Assessment must be received by the Administration by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the second month of the quarter.
- I. Excluded hospitals. The following hospitals are excluded from the assessment based on the hospital's 2011 Medicare Cost Report and Provider & Facility Database for Arizona Medical Facilities posted by the Arizona Department of Health Services Division of Licensing Services on its website for March 1, 2013:
  - 1. Hospitals owned and operated by the state, the United States, or an Indian tribe.
  - 2. Hospitals designated as type: hospital, subtype: short-term that have a license number beginning "SH".
  - 3. Hospitals designated as type: hospital, subtype: psychiatric that reported fewer than 2,500 discharges on the 2011 Medicare Cost Report.
  - 4. Hospitals designated as type: hospital, subtype; rehabilitation.
  - 5. Hospitals designated as type: hospital, subtype: children's.
  - 6. Hospitals designated as type: med-hospital, subtype: special hospitals.
  - 7. Hospitals designated as type: hospital, subtype: short-term located in a city with a population greater than one million, which on average have at least 15 percent of inpatient days for patients who reside outside of Arizona, and at least 50 percent of discharges as reported on the 2011 Medicare Cost Report are reimbursed by Medicare.
- J. New hospitals. For hospitals that did not file a 2011 Medicare Cost Report because of the date the hospital began operations, the hospital assessment will begin with the hospital's second quarter of operation but no sooner than January 1, 2014. The assessment will be based on the number of discharges reported by the hospital to AHCCCS for prior quarters until the hospital files its initial Medicare Cost Report. Thereafter, the assessment will be based on the discharges reported in the hospital's initial Medicare Cost Report.
- K. Changes of ownership. The parties to a change of ownership shall promptly provide written notice to the Administration of a change of ownership and any agreement regarding the payment of the assessment. Assessments are the responsibility of the owner of record as of the first day of the quarter; however, this rule is not intended to prohibit the parties to a change of ownership from entering into an agreement for a new owner to assume the assessment responsibility of the owner of record as of the first day of the prior quarter.
- L. Hospital closures. Hospitals that close shall pay a proportion of the quarterly assessment equal to that portion of the quarter during which the hospital operated.
- M. Required information. For any hospital that has not filed a 2011 Medicare Cost report, or if the 2011 Medicare Cost report does not include the reliable information sufficient for the Administration to calculate the assessment, the Administration shall use data reported on the 2011 Uniform Accounting Report filed by the hospital in place of the 2011 Medicare Cost report to calculate the assessment. If the 2011 Uniform Accounting Report filed by the hospital does not include reliable information sufficient for the Administration to calculate the assessment amounts, the hospital shall provide the Administration with data specified by the Administration necessary in place of the 2011 Medicare Cost report to calculate the assessment.
- N. The Administration will review and update as necessary rates and peer groups periodically to ensure the assessment is sufficient to fund the state match obligation to cover the cost of the populations as specified in 36-2901.08.
- O. Enforcement. If a hospital does not comply with this section, the director may suspend or revoke the hospital's provider agreement. If the hospital does not comply within 180 days after the hospital's provider agreement is suspended or revoked, the director shall notify the director of the Department of Health Services who shall suspend or revoke the hospital's license.