

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4250

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to revise regulations implementing the statutory reporting and auditing requirements for the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (“DSH”) payment program to be consistent with the scope of the statutory provisions and avoid substantive changes to preexisting DSH policy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 9, 2009

Mr. MELANCON (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CAO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. FLEMING) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to revise regulations implementing the statutory reporting and auditing requirements for the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (“DSH”) payment program to be consistent with the scope of the statutory provisions and avoid substantive changes to preexisting DSH policy.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Medicaid DSH Integrity Act”.

1 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

2 (1) Medicaid disproportionate share hospital
3 (“DSH”) payments are a critical source of funding
4 for many safety net hospitals that provide essential
5 access to care for the poor and uninsured.

6 (2) The statutory reporting and auditing re-
7 quirements added by the Medicare Prescription
8 Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003
9 are important to provide assurances to Congress, the
10 Department of Health and Human Services, States
11 and the public that DSH funds are being used to
12 fulfill their intended statutory purpose of assisting
13 hospitals that serve a disproportionate share of low-
14 income individuals.

15 (3) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Serv-
16 ices issued Medicaid DSH auditing and reporting
17 regulations (as defined in section 2(d)) that, in im-
18 plementing those reporting and auditing require-
19 ments, also implemented changes to underlying DSH
20 policy which have the effect of narrowing the scope
21 of DSH payments that may be made for many
22 States.

23 (4) In adding those reporting and auditing re-
24 quirements, Congress did not intend to alter the def-
25 inition of DSH-eligible costs or to narrow the scope

1 of DSH payments that may be made under the ex-
2 isting DSH program and the substantive standards
3 in section 1923(g) of the Social Security Act (42
4 U.S.C. 1396r-4(g)).

5 (5) The policy changes in such regulations
6 would result in DSH payment reductions of millions
7 of dollars to critical safety net providers that have
8 long participated in the Medicaid DSH program
9 under payment methodologies previously approved
10 by CMS.

11 **SEC. 2. REVISION OF MEDICAID DSH AUDITING AND RE-**
12 **PORTING REGULATIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
14 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and
15 Human Services, in consultation with States and dis-
16 proportionate share hospitals (as determined for purposes
17 of the Medicaid DSH program), shall—

18 (1) indicate, in appropriate guidance, that CMS
19 does not intend to enforce any changes in policy re-
20 lated to the calculation of the limits under section
21 1923(g)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act that were
22 contained in the Medicaid DSH auditing and report-
23 ing regulations; and

24 (2) publish an interim final rule to revise the
25 Medicaid DSH auditing and reporting regulations at

1 sections 447.299(c) and 455.304 of title 42, Code of
2 Federal Regulations, as necessary—

3 (A) to correct policy changes related to the
4 calculation of the limits under section
5 1923(g)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act;

6 (B) to provide appropriate guidance for
7 otherwise implementing the Medicaid DSH au-
8 diting and reporting regulations; and

9 (C) to provide for the regulatory changes
10 described in subsection (b).

11 (b) REGULATORY CHANGES TO BE INCLUDED IN
12 NEW INTERIM FINAL RULE.—The regulatory changes de-
13 scribed in this subsection are the following:

14 (1) In defining the costs of furnishing services
15 to individuals with no health insurance (or other
16 source of third-party coverage), CMS shall permit
17 inclusion of all costs related to services provided to
18 patients with no insurance for the service rendered,
19 even if the patient has insurance that covers other
20 services. The receipt by a hospital of nominal pay-
21 ments related to a service shall not constitute health
22 insurance or a source of third-party coverage.

23 (2) Consistent with prior guidance of CMS con-
24 tained in a letter to State Medicaid directors on Au-
25 gust 17, 1994, CMS shall permit States to use the

1 definition of allowable costs in its State Medicaid
2 plan, or any other definition, in computing such
3 costs as long as the costs determined under such a
4 definition do not exceed the amounts that would be
5 allowable under the Medicare principles of cost reim-
6 bursement. CMS shall interpret the language of the
7 audit requirement at section 1923(j)(2)(C) of the
8 Social Security Act describing “inpatient hospital
9 and outpatient hospital services” to be consistent
10 with the term “hospital services” as used in section
11 1923(g)(1)(A) of such Act and not to indicate an in-
12 tent by Congress for a more restrictive interpreta-
13 tion of such section 1923(g)(1)(A).

14 (3) CMS shall, as appropriate, revise the Gen-
15 eral DSH Audit and Reporting Protocol referenced
16 in the Medicaid DSH auditing and reporting regula-
17 tions and issued at the same time as those regula-
18 tions, in particular, to permit the use of either an
19 overall cost-to-charge ratio or departmental cost-to-
20 charge ratios.

21 (4) CMS shall revise section 455.304(d)(2) of
22 title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, to permit al-
23 ternative methodologies for determining actual costs,
24 including through trending forward costs from prior
25 years.

1 (c) INITIATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1923(j) of the Social
3 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r–4(j)) is amended by
4 striking “2004” and inserting “2008”.

5 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
6 by paragraph (1) shall be effective as if included in
7 the enactment of the Medicare Prescription Drug,
8 Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Pub-
9 lic Law 108–173).

10 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

11 (1) The term “CMS” means the Centers for
12 Medicare & Medicaid Services.

13 (2) The term “Medicaid DSH auditing and re-
14 porting regulations” means the final regulation
15 issued on December 19, 2008, and published begin-
16 ning at 73 Federal Register 77904.

17 (3) The term “Medicaid DSH program” means
18 the program of payment adjustments under section
19 1923 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r–
20 4).

21 (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
22 of Health and Human Services, acting through
23 CMS.

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