



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

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**Memorandum**

**To:** The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
 Chairman, House Finance Committee

The Honorable Daniel DaPonte  
 Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

**From:** Thomas A. Mullaney *Thomas A. Mullaney*  
 Executive Director/State Budget Officer

**Date:** February 14, 2017

**Subject:** Amendment Article 13 - Relating to Medical Assistance and Uncompensated Care

The Governor requests that Article 13 - Relating to Medical Assistance and Uncompensated Care be amended to clarify the Hospital rate reduction language in section 1 and to include additional disproportionate share hospital payments (DSH Plan) language in section 2. The changes are detailed as follows:

The clarification in section one of the article changes the Hospital rate reduction language from "For the six (6) month period beginning January 1, 2018" to "Beginning January 1, 2018". The language is changed in four (4) places in section 1 of the article. The Governor's intent was for the rate reduction to be a permanent rebasing of the hospital rates and not just for a six (6) month period.

The new DSH Plan language added to section 2 will extend the DSH Plan into the federal fiscal year 2018. This perennial language was inadvertently excluded from the original version of the article as submitted.

All changes in the attached revised article are highlighted in grey.

If you have any questions regarding this amendment, please feel free to call me (222-6300).

## Attachment

cc: Sharon Reynolds Ferland, House Fiscal Advisor  
 Stephen Whitney, Senate Fiscal Advisor  
 Michael DiBiase, Director of Administration  
 Jonathan Womer, Director, Office of Management and Budget  
 John Raymond, Supervising Budget Analyst  
 Gregory Stack, Supervising Budget Analyst

1 **ARTICLE 13**

2 **RELATING TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND UNCOMPENSATED CARE**

3 SECTION 1. Sections 40-8-13.4, 40-8-19 and 40-8-26 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-8  
4 entitled "Medical Assistance" are hereby amended to read as follows:

5 **40-8-13.4 Rate methodology for payment for in state and out of state hospital services.** -- (a)

6 The executive office of health and human services ("executive office") shall implement a new methodology  
7 for payment for in-state and out-of-state hospital services in order to ensure access to, and the provision of,  
8 high-quality and cost-effective hospital care to its eligible recipients.

9 (b) In order to improve efficiency and cost effectiveness, the executive office shall:

10 (1)(i) With respect to inpatient services for persons in fee-for-service Medicaid, which is non-  
11 managed care, implement a new payment methodology for inpatient services utilizing the Diagnosis  
12 Related Groups (DRG) method of payment, which is a patient-classification method that provides a means  
13 of relating payment to the hospitals to the type of patients cared for by the hospitals. It is understood that a  
14 payment method based on DRG may include cost outlier payments and other specific exceptions. The  
15 executive office will review the DRG-payment method and the DRG base price annually, making  
16 adjustments as appropriate in consideration of such elements as trends in hospital input costs; patterns in  
17 hospital coding; beneficiary access to care; and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services national  
18 CMS Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Hospital Input Price index. For the twelve-month (12) period  
19 beginning July 1, 2015, the DRG base rate for Medicaid fee-for-service inpatient hospital services shall not  
20 exceed ninety-seven and one-half percent (97.5%) of the payment rates in effect as of July 1, 2014. ~~For the~~  
21 ~~six (6) month period~~ Beginning January 1, 2018, the DRG base rate for Medicaid fee-for-service inpatient  
22 hospital services shall not exceed ninety-nine percent (99.0%) of the payment rates in effect as of July 1,  
23 2017.

24 (ii) With respect to inpatient services, (A) It is required as of January 1, 2011 until December 31,  
25 2011, that the Medicaid managed care payment rates between each hospital and health plan shall not exceed  
26 ninety and one tenth percent (90.1%) of the rate in effect as of June 30, 2010. Negotiated increases in

1 inpatient hospital payments for each annual twelve-month (12) period beginning January 1, 2012 may not  
2 exceed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services national CMS Prospective Payment System (IPPS)  
3 Hospital Input Price index for the applicable period; (B) Provided, however, for the twenty-four-month (24)  
4 period beginning July 1, 2013, the Medicaid managed care payment rates between each hospital and health  
5 plan shall not exceed the payment rates in effect as of January 1, 2013, and for the twelve-month (12) period  
6 beginning July 1, 2015, the Medicaid managed-care payment inpatient rates between each hospital and  
7 health plan shall not exceed ninety-seven and one-half percent (97.5%) of the payment rates in effect as of  
8 January 1, 2013; (C) Negotiated increases in inpatient hospital payments for each annual twelve-month (12)  
9 period beginning July 1, 2016, may not exceed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services national  
10 CMS Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Hospital Input Price Index, less Productivity Adjustment, for the  
11 applicable period; (D) ~~For the six (6) month period~~ Beginning July 1, 2017, the Medicaid managed care  
12 payment inpatient rates between each hospital and health plan shall not exceed ninety-nine percent (99.0%)  
13 of the payment rates in effect as of July 1, 2017; (D E) The executive office will develop an audit  
14 methodology and process to assure that savings associated with the payment reductions will accrue directly  
15 to the Rhode Island Medicaid program through reduced managed-care-plan payments and shall not be  
16 retained by the managed-care plans; (E F) All hospitals licensed in Rhode Island shall accept such payment  
17 rates as payment in full; and (F G) For all such hospitals, compliance with the provisions of this section  
18 shall be a condition of participation in the Rhode Island Medicaid program.

19 (2) With respect to outpatient services and notwithstanding any provisions of the law to the  
20 contrary, for persons enrolled in fee-for-service Medicaid, the executive office will reimburse hospitals for  
21 outpatient services using a rate methodology determined by the executive office and in accordance with  
22 federal regulations. Fee-for-service outpatient rates shall align with Medicare payments for similar services.  
23 Notwithstanding the above, there shall be no increase in the Medicaid fee-for-service outpatient rates  
24 effective on July 1, 2013, July 1, 2014, or July 1, 2015. For the twelve-month (12) period beginning July 1,  
25 2015, Medicaid fee-for-service outpatient rates shall not exceed ninety-seven and one-half percent (97.5%)  
26 of the rates in effect as of July 1, 2014. ~~For the six (6) month period~~ Beginning January 1, 2018, Medicaid

1 fee-for-service outpatient rates shall not exceed ninety-nine percent (99.0%) of the rates in effect as of July  
2 1, 2017. Thereafter, increases in the outpatient hospital payments for each annual twelve-month (12) period  
3 beginning July 1, 2016~~7~~, may not exceed the CMS national Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS)  
4 Hospital Input Price Index for the applicable period. With respect to the outpatient rate,

5 (i) It is required as of January 1, 2011, until December 31, 2011, that the Medicaid managed-care  
6 payment rates between each hospital and health plan shall not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the  
7 rate in effect as of June 30, 2010;

8 (ii) Negotiated increases in hospital outpatient payments for each annual twelve-month (12) period  
9 beginning January 1, 2012, may not exceed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services national CMS  
10 Outpatient Prospective Payment System OPSS hospital price index for the applicable period;

11 (iii) Provided, however, for the twenty-four-month (24) period beginning July 1, 2013, the  
12 Medicaid managed-care outpatient payment rates between each hospital and health plan shall not exceed  
13 the payment rates in effect as of January 1, 2013, and for the twelve-month (12) period beginning July 1,  
14 2015, the Medicaid managed-care outpatient payment rates between each hospital and health plan shall not  
15 exceed ninety-seven and one-half percent (97.5%) of the payment rates in effect as of January 1, 2013;

16 (iv) ~~For the six (6) month period~~ Beginning January 1, 2018, the Medicaid managed care outpatient  
17 payment rates between each hospital and health plan shall not exceed ninety-nine percent (99.0%) of the  
18 payment rates in effect as of July 1, 2017;

19 (v) Negotiated increases in outpatient hospital payments for each annual twelve-month (12) period  
20 beginning July 1, 2016~~8~~, may not exceed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services national CMS  
21 OPSS Hospital Input Price Index, less Productivity Adjustment, for the applicable period.

22 (3) "Hospital", as used in this section, shall mean the actual facilities and buildings in existence in  
23 Rhode Island, licensed pursuant to 23-17-1 et seq. on June 30, 2010, and thereafter any premises included  
24 on that license, regardless of changes in licensure status pursuant to chapter 17.14 of title 23 (hospital  
25 conversions) and 23-17-6(b) (change in effective control), that provides short-term, acute inpatient and/or  
26 outpatient care to persons who require definitive diagnosis and treatment for injury, illness, disabilities, or

1 pregnancy. Notwithstanding the preceding language, the negotiated Medicaid managed care payment rates  
2 for a court-approved purchaser that acquires a hospital through receivership, special mastership or other  
3 similar state insolvency proceedings (which court-approved purchaser is issued a hospital license after  
4 January 1, 2013) shall be based upon the newly negotiated rates between the court-approved purchaser and  
5 the health plan, and such rates shall be effective as of the date that the court-approved purchaser and the  
6 health plan execute the initial agreement containing the newly negotiated rate. The rate-setting methodology  
7 for inpatient-hospital payments and outpatient-hospital payments set forth in subdivisions (b)(1)(ii)(C) and  
8 (b)(2), respectively, shall thereafter apply to negotiated increases for each annual twelve-month (12) period  
9 as of July 1 following the completion of the first full year of the court-approved purchaser's initial Medicaid  
10 managed care contract.

11 (c) It is intended that payment utilizing the DRG method shall reward hospitals for providing the  
12 most efficient care, and provide the executive office the opportunity to conduct value-based purchasing of  
13 inpatient care.

14 (d) The secretary of the executive office is hereby authorized to promulgate such rules and  
15 regulations consistent with this chapter, and to establish fiscal procedures he or she deems necessary, for  
16 the proper implementation and administration of this chapter in order to provide payment to hospitals using  
17 the DRG-payment methodology. Furthermore, amendment of the Rhode Island state plan for Medicaid,  
18 pursuant to Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act, is hereby authorized to provide for payment to  
19 hospitals for services provided to eligible recipients in accordance with this chapter.

20 (e) The executive office shall comply with all public notice requirements necessary to implement  
21 these rate changes.

22 (f) As a condition of participation in the DRG methodology for payment of hospital services, every  
23 hospital shall submit year-end settlement reports to the executive office within one year from the close of  
24 a hospital's fiscal year. Should a participating hospital fail to timely submit a year-end settlement report as  
25 required by this section, the executive office shall withhold financial-cycle payments due by any state  
26 agency with respect to this hospital by not more than ten percent (10%) until said report is submitted. For

1 hospital fiscal year 2010 and all subsequent fiscal years, hospitals will not be required to submit year-end  
2 settlement reports on payments for outpatient services. For hospital fiscal year 2011 and all subsequent  
3 fiscal years, hospitals will not be required to submit year-end settlement reports on claims for hospital  
4 inpatient services. Further, for hospital fiscal year 2010, hospital inpatient claims subject to settlement shall  
5 include only those claims received between October 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010.

6 (g) The provisions of this section shall be effective upon implementation of the new payment  
7 methodology set forth in this section and 40-8-13.3, which shall in any event be no later than March 30,  
8 2010, at which time the provisions of §40-8-13.2, 27-19-14, 27-19-15, and 27-19-16 shall be repealed in  
9 their entirety.

10 **40-8-19. Rates of payment to nursing facilities.** – (a) Rate reform. (1) The rates to be paid by the  
11 state to nursing facilities licensed pursuant to chapter 17 of title 23, and certified to participate in the Title  
12 XIX Medicaid program for services rendered to Medicaid-eligible residents, shall be reasonable and  
13 adequate to meet the costs that must be incurred by efficiently and economically operated facilities in  
14 accordance with 42 U.S.C. §1396a(a)(13). The executive office of health and human services ("executive  
15 office") shall promulgate or modify the principles of reimbursement for nursing facilities in effect as of  
16 July 1, 2011 to be consistent with the provisions of this section and Title XIX, 42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq., of  
17 the Social Security Act.

18 (2) The executive office shall review the current methodology for providing Medicaid payments to  
19 nursing facilities, including other long-term care services providers, and is authorized to modify the  
20 principles of reimbursement to replace the current cost based methodology rates with rates based on a price  
21 based methodology to be paid to all facilities with recognition of the acuity of patients and the relative  
22 Medicaid occupancy, and to include the following elements to be developed by the executive office:

- 23 (i) A direct care rate adjusted for resident acuity;
- 24 (ii) An indirect care rate comprised of a base per diem for all facilities;
- 25 (iii) A rearray of costs for all facilities every three (3) years beginning October, 2015, that may or  
26 may not result in automatic per diem revisions;

1 (iv) Application of a fair rental value system;

2 (v) Application of a pass-through system; and

3 (vi) Adjustment of rates by the change in a recognized national nursing home inflation index to be  
4 applied on October 1st of each year, beginning October 1, 2012. This adjustment will not occur on October  
5 1, 2013 or October 1, 2015, but will occur on April 1, 2015. The adjustment of rates will also not occur on  
6 October 1, 2017. Said inflation index shall be applied without regard for the transition factor in subsection  
7 (b)(2) below. For purposes of October 1, 2016, adjustment only, any rate increase that results from  
8 application of the inflation index to subparagraphs (a)(2)(i) and (a)(2)(ii) shall be dedicated to increase  
9 compensation for direct-care workers in the following manner: Not less than 85% of this aggregate amount  
10 shall be expended to fund an increase in wages, benefits, or related employer costs of direct-care staff of  
11 nursing homes. For purposes of this section, direct-care staff shall include registered nurses (RNs), licensed  
12 practical nurses (LPNs), certified nursing assistants (CNAs), certified medical technicians, housekeeping  
13 staff, laundry staff, dietary staff, or other similar employees providing direct care services; provided,  
14 however, that this definition of direct-care staff shall not include: (i) RNs and LPNs who are classified as  
15 "exempt employees" under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.); or (ii) CNAs,  
16 certified medical technicians, RNs, or LPNs who are contracted, or subcontracted, through a third-party  
17 vendor or staffing agency. By July 31, 2017, nursing facilities shall submit to the secretary, or designee, a  
18 certification that they have complied with the provisions of this subparagraph (a)(2)(vi) with respect to the  
19 inflation index applied on October 1, 2016. Any facility that does not comply with terms of such  
20 certification shall be subjected to a clawback, paid by the nursing facility to the state, in the amount of  
21 increased reimbursement subject to this provision that was not expended in compliance with that  
22 certification.

23 (vii) Effective on and after July 1, 2017, modify the reimbursement methodology through the  
24 implementation of acuity-based policy adjustors.

25 (b) Transition to full implementation of rate reform. For no less than four (4) years after the initial  
26 application of the price-based methodology described in subdivision (a)(2) to payment rates, the executive

1 office of health and human services shall implement a transition plan to moderate the impact of the rate  
2 reform on individual nursing facilities. Said transition shall include the following components:

3 (1) No nursing facility shall receive reimbursement for direct-care costs that is less than the rate of  
4 reimbursement for direct-care costs received under the methodology in effect at the time of passage of this  
5 act; for the year beginning October 1, 2017, the reimbursement for direct-care costs under this provision  
6 will be phased out in twenty-five-percent (25%) increments each year until October 1, 2021, when the  
7 reimbursement will no longer be in effect. No nursing facility shall receive reimbursement for direct care  
8 costs that is less than the rate of reimbursement for direct care costs received under the methodology in  
9 effect at the time of passage of this act; and

10 (2) No facility shall lose or gain more than five dollars (\$5.00) in its total per diem rate the first  
11 year of the transition. An adjustment to the per diem loss or gain may be phased out by twenty-five percent  
12 (25%) each year; except, however, for the years beginning October 1, 2015, there shall be no adjustment to  
13 the per diem gain or loss, but the phase out shall resume thereafter; and

14 (3) The transition plan and/or period may be modified upon full implementation of facility per diem  
15 rate increases for quality of care related measures. Said modifications shall be submitted in a report to the  
16 general assembly at least six (6) months prior to implementation.

17 (4) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, for the twelve (12) month period beginning July 1,  
18 2015, Medicaid payment rates for nursing facilities established pursuant to this section shall not exceed  
19 ninety-eight percent (98%) of the rates in effect on April 1, 2015.

20 **40-8-26 Community health centers.** (a) For the purposes of this section the term community  
21 health centers refers to federally qualified health centers and rural health centers.

22 (b) To support the ability of community health centers to provide high quality medical care to  
23 patients, the ~~department of human services~~ executive office of health and human services (“executive  
24 office”) shall adopt and implement a methodology for determining a Medicaid per visit reimbursement for  
25 community health centers which is compliant with the prospective payment system provided for in the  
26 Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2001. The following



1 principles are to assure that the prospective payment rate determination methodology is part of the  
2 ~~department of human services'~~ executive office overall value purchasing approach.

3 (c) The rate determination methodology will (i) fairly recognize the reasonable costs of providing  
4 services. Recognized reasonable costs will be those appropriate for the organization, management and direct  
5 provision of services and (ii) provide assurances to the ~~department of human services~~ executive office that  
6 services are provided in an effective and efficient manner, consistent with industry standards. Except for  
7 demonstrated cause and at the discretion of the ~~department of human services~~ executive office, the  
8 maximum reimbursement rate for a service (e.g. medical, dental) provided by an individual community  
9 health center shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the median rate for all community  
10 health centers within Rhode Island.

11 (d) Community health centers will cooperate fully and timely with reporting requirements  
12 established by the ~~department~~ executive office.

13 (e) Reimbursement rates established through this methodology shall be incorporated into the PPS  
14 reconciliation for services provided to Medicaid eligible persons who are enrolled in a health plan on the  
15 date of service. Monthly payments by ~~DHS~~ the executive office related to PPS for persons enrolled in a  
16 health plan shall be made directly to the community health centers.

17 (f) Reimbursement rates established through this methodology shall be incorporated into the PPS  
18 reconciliation for services provided to Medicaid eligible persons who are enrolled in a health plan on the  
19 date of service. Monthly payments by DHS related to PPS for persons enrolled in a health plan shall be  
20 made directly to the community health centers actuarially certified capitation rates paid to a health plan.  
21 The health plan shall be responsible for paying the full amount of the reimbursement rate to the community  
22 health center for each service eligible for reimbursement under the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Benefits  
23 Improvement and Protection Act of 2001. If the health plan has an alternative payment arrangement with  
24 the community health center the health plan may establish a PPS reconciliation process for eligible services  
25 and make monthly payments related to PPS for person enrolled in the health plan on the date of service.  
26 The executive office will review, at least annually, the Medicaid reimbursement rates and reconciliation

1 methodology used by the health plans for community health centers to ensure payments to each are made  
2 in compliance with the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2001.

3 SECTION 2. Sections 40-8.3-2, ~~40-8.3-3~~ and 40-8.3-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-8.3  
4 entitled "Uncompensated Care" are hereby amended to read as follows:

5 **40-8.3-2 Definitions.**

6 As used in this chapter:

7 (1) "Base year" means for the purpose of calculating a disproportionate share payment for any fiscal  
8 year ending after September 30, ~~2015-2016~~, the period from October 1, ~~2013-2014~~ through September 30,  
9 ~~2014-2015~~, and for any fiscal year ending after September 30, ~~2016-2017~~, the period from October 1, 2014  
10 through September 30, 2015.

11 (2) "Medicaid inpatient utilization rate for a hospital" means a fraction (expressed as a percentage),  
12 the numerator of which is the hospital's number of inpatient days during the base year attributable to patients  
13 who were eligible for medical assistance during the base year and the denominator of which is the total  
14 number of the hospital's inpatient days in the base year.

15 (3) "Participating hospital" means any government or nongovernment and psychiatric or non-  
16 psychiatric hospital that:

17 (i) Was licensed as a hospital in accordance with chapter 17 of title 23 during the base year and  
18 shall mean the actual facilities and buildings in existence in Rhode Island, licensed pursuant to 23-17-1 et  
19 seq. on June 30, 2010, and thereafter any premises included on that license, regardless of changes in  
20 licensure status pursuant to chapter 17.14 of title 23 (hospital conversions) and 23-17-6(b) (change in  
21 effective control), that provides short-term acute inpatient and/or outpatient care to persons who require  
22 definitive diagnosis and treatment for injury, illness, disabilities, or pregnancy. Notwithstanding the  
23 preceding language, the negotiated Medicaid managed care payment rates for a court-approved purchaser  
24 that acquires a hospital through receivership, special mastership, or other similar state insolvency  
25 proceedings (which court-approved purchaser is issued a hospital license after January 1, 2013) shall be  
26 based upon the newly negotiated rates between the court-approved purchaser and the health plan, and such

1 rates shall be effective as of the date that the court-approved purchaser and the health plan execute the initial  
2 agreement containing the newly negotiated rate. The rate-setting methodology for inpatient hospital  
3 payments and outpatient hospital payments set forth in §40-8-13.4(b)(1)(ii)(C) and 40-8-13.4(b)(2),  
4 respectively, shall thereafter apply to negotiated increases for each annual twelve-month (12) period as of  
5 July 1 following the completion of the first full year of the court-approved purchaser's initial Medicaid  
6 managed care contract.

7 (ii) Achieved a medical assistance inpatient utilization rate of at least one percent (1%) during the  
8 base year; and

9 (iii) Continues to be licensed as a hospital in accordance with chapter 17 of title 23 during the  
10 payment year.

11 (4) "Uncompensated-care costs" means, as to any hospital, the sum of: (i) The cost incurred by such  
12 hospital during the base year for inpatient or outpatient services attributable to charity care (free care and  
13 bad debts) for which the patient has no health insurance or other third-party coverage less payments, if any,  
14 received directly from such patients; and (ii) The cost incurred by such hospital during the base year for  
15 inpatient or out-patient services attributable to Medicaid beneficiaries less any Medicaid reimbursement  
16 received therefor; multiplied by the uncompensated care index.

17 (5) "Uncompensated-care index" means the annual percentage increase for hospitals established  
18 pursuant to 27-19-14 for each year after the base year, up to and including the payment year, provided,  
19 however, that the uncompensated-care index for the payment year ending September 30, 2007, shall be  
20 deemed to be five and thirty-eight hundredths percent (5.38%), and that the uncompensated-care index for  
21 the payment year ending September 30, 2008, shall be deemed to be five and forty-seven hundredths percent  
22 (5.47%), and that the uncompensated-care index for the payment year ending September 30, 2009, shall be  
23 deemed to be five and thirty-eight hundredths percent (5.38%), and that the uncompensated-care index for  
24 the payment years ending September 30, 2010, September 30, 2011, September 30, 2012, September 30,  
25 2013, September 30, 2014, September 30, 2015, September 30, 2016, and September 30, 2017, shall be  
26 deemed to be five and thirty hundredths percent (5.30%).

1 **40-8.3-3. Implementation.** (a) For federal fiscal year 2015, commencing on October 1, 2014 and  
2 ending September 30, 2015, the executive office of health and human services shall submit to the Secretary  
3 of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services a state plan amendment to the Rhode Island Medicaid  
4 state plan for disproportionate share hospital payments (DSH Plan) to provide:

5 (1) That the DSH Plan to all participating hospitals, not to exceed an aggregate limit of \$140.0  
6 million, shall be allocated by the executive office of health and human services to the Pool A, Pool C and  
7 Pool D components of the DSH Plan; and,

8 (2) That the Pool D allotment shall be distributed among the participating hospitals in direct  
9 proportion to the individual participating hospital's uncompensated care costs for the base year, inflated by  
10 the uncompensated care index to the total uncompensated care costs for the base year inflated by  
11 uncompensated care index for all participating hospitals. The DSH Plan payments shall be made on or  
12 before July 13, 2015 and are expressly conditioned upon approval on or before July 6, 2015 by the Secretary  
13 of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or his or her authorized representative, of all  
14 Medicaid state plan amendments necessary to secure for the state the benefit of federal financial  
15 participation in federal fiscal year 2015 for the disproportionate share payments.

16 (b)(a) For federal fiscal year 2016, commencing on October 1, 2015 and ending September 30,  
17 2016, the executive office of health and human services shall submit to the Secretary of the U.S. Department  
18 of Health and Human Services a state plan amendment to the Rhode Island Medicaid DSH Plan to provide:

19 (1) That the DSH Plan to all participating hospitals, not to exceed an aggregate limit of \$138.2  
20 million, shall be allocated by the executive office of health and human services to the Pool A, Pool C and  
21 Pool D components of the DSH Plan; and,

22 (2) That the Pool D allotment shall be distributed among the participating hospitals in direct  
23 proportion to the individual participating hospital's uncompensated care costs for the base year, inflated by  
24 the uncompensated care index to the total uncompensated care costs for the base year inflated by  
25 uncompensated care index for all participating hospitals. The DSH Plan payments shall be made on or  
26 before July 11, 2016 and are expressly conditioned upon approval on or before July 5, 2016 by the Secretary

1 of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or his or her authorized representative, of all  
2 Medicaid state plan amendments necessary to secure for the state the benefit of federal financial  
3 participation in federal fiscal year 2016 for the DSH Plan.

4 (e)(b) For federal fiscal year 2017, commencing on October 1, 2016 and ending September 30,  
5 2017, the executive office of health and human services shall submit to the Secretary of the U.S. Department  
6 of Health and Human Services a state plan amendment to the Rhode Island Medicaid DSH Plan to provide:

7 (1) That the disproportionate share hospital payments to all participating hospitals, not to exceed  
8 an aggregate limit of \$139.7 million, shall be allocated by the executive office of health and human services  
9 to the Pool A, Pool C and Pool D components of the DSH Plan, and,

10 (2) That the Pool D allotment shall be distributed among the participating hospitals in direct  
11 proportion to the individual participating hospital's uncompensated care costs for the base year, inflated by  
12 the uncompensated care index to the total uncompensated care costs for the base year inflated by  
13 uncompensated care index for all participating hospitals. The DSH Plan shall be made on or before July 11,  
14 2017 and are expressly conditioned upon approval on or before July 5, 2017 by the Secretary of the U.S.  
15 Department of Health and Human Services, or his or her authorized representative, of all Medicaid state  
16 plan amendments necessary to secure for the state the benefit of federal financial participation in federal  
17 fiscal year 2017 for the disproportionate share payments.

18 (c) For federal fiscal year 2018, commencing on October 1, 2017 and ending September 30, 2018,  
19 the executive office of health and human services shall submit to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of  
20 Health and Human Services a state plan amendment to the Rhode Island Medicaid DSH Plan to provide:

21 (1) That the DSH Plan to all participating hospitals, not to exceed an aggregate limit of \$139.7  
22 million, shall be allocated by the executive office of health and human services to the Pool A, Pool C and  
23 Pool D components of the DSH Plan; and,

24 (2) That the Pool D allotment shall be distributed among the participating hospitals in direct  
25 proportion to the individual participating hospital's uncompensated care costs for the base year, inflated by  
26 the uncompensated care index to the total uncompensated care costs for the base year inflated by

1 uncompensated care index for all participating hospitals. The disproportionate share payments shall be  
2 made on or before July 10, 2018 and are expressly conditioned upon approval on or before July 5, 2018 by  
3 the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or his or her authorized representative,  
4 of all Medicaid state plan amendments necessary to secure for the state the benefit of federal financial  
5 participation in federal fiscal year 2018 for the disproportionate share payments.

6 (d) No provision is made pursuant to this chapter for disproportionate share hospital payments to  
7 participating hospitals for uncompensated care costs related to graduate medical education programs.

8 (e) The executive office of health and human services is directed, on at least a monthly basis, to  
9 collect patient level uninsured information, including, but not limited to, demographics, services rendered,  
10 and reason for uninsured status from all hospitals licensed in Rhode Island.

11 (f) Beginning with federal FY 2016, Pool D DSH payments will be recalculated by the state based  
12 on actual hospital experience. The final Pool D payments will be based on the data from the final DSH audit  
13 for each federal fiscal year. Pool D DSH payments will be redistributed among the qualifying hospitals in  
14 direct proportion to the individual qualifying hospital's uncompensated care to the total uncompensated care  
15 costs for all qualifying hospitals as determined by the DSH audit. No hospital will receive an allocation that  
16 would incur funds received in excess of audited uncompensated care costs.

17 **40-8.3-10 Hospital adjustment payments.** Effective July 1, 2012 and for each subsequent year,  
18 the executive office of health and human services is hereby authorized and directed to amend its regulations  
19 for reimbursement to hospitals for inpatient and outpatient services as follows:

20 (a) Each hospital in the state of Rhode Island, as defined in subdivision 23-17-38.1(c)(1), shall  
21 receive a quarterly outpatient adjustment payment each state fiscal year of an amount determined as follows:

22 (1) Determine the percent of the state's total Medicaid outpatient and emergency department  
23 services (exclusive of physician services) provided by each hospital during each hospital's prior fiscal year;

24 (2) Determine the sum of all Medicaid payments to hospitals made for outpatient and emergency  
25 department services (exclusive of physician services) provided during each hospital's prior fiscal year;

1 (3) Multiply the sum of all Medicaid payments as determined in subdivision (2) by a percentage  
2 defined as the total identified upper payment limit for all hospitals divided by the sum of all Medicaid  
3 payments as determined in subdivision (2); and then multiply that result by each hospital's percentage of  
4 the state's total Medicaid outpatient and emergency department services as determined in subdivision (1);  
5 and then multiply the immediately preceding result by fifty percent (50%) to obtain the total outpatient  
6 adjustment for each hospital to be paid each year;

7 (4) Pay each hospital on or before July 20, October 20, January 20, and April 20 one quarter (1/4)  
8 of its total outpatient adjustment as determined in subdivision (3) above.

9 (b) Each hospital in the state of Rhode Island, as defined in subdivision 3-17-38.19(b)(1), shall  
10 receive a quarterly inpatient adjustment payment each state fiscal year of an amount determined as follows:

11 (1) Determine the percent of the state's total Medicaid inpatient services (exclusive of physician  
12 services) provided by each hospital during each hospital's prior fiscal year;

13 (2) Determine the sum of all Medicaid payments to hospitals made for inpatient services (exclusive  
14 of physician services) provided during each hospital's prior fiscal year;

15 (3) Multiply the sum of all Medicaid payments as determined in subdivision (2) by a percentage  
16 defined as the total identified upper payment limit for all hospitals divided by the sum of all Medicaid  
17 payments as determined in subdivision (2); and then multiply that result by each hospital's percentage of  
18 the state's total Medicaid inpatient services as determined in subdivision (1); and then multiply the  
19 immediately preceding result by fifty percent (50%) to obtain the total inpatient adjustment for each  
20 hospital to be paid each year;

21 (4) Pay each hospital on or before July 20, October 20, January 20, and April 20 one quarter (1/4)  
22 of its total inpatient adjustment as determined in subdivision (3) above.

23 (c) The amounts determined in subsections (a) and (b) are in addition to Medicaid inpatient and  
24 outpatient payments and emergency services payments (exclusive of physician services) paid to hospitals  
25 in accordance with current state regulation and the Rhode Island Plan for Medicaid Assistance pursuant to  
26 Title XIX of the Social Security Act and are not subject to recoupment or settlement.

1 SECTION 3. Section 40-8.9-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-8.9 entitled “Medical Assistance  
2 - Long-Term Care Service and Finance Reform” are hereby amended to read as follows

3 **40-8.9-9. Long-term care re-balancing system reform goal.**- (a) Notwithstanding any other  
4 provision of state law, the executive office of health and human services is authorized and directed to apply  
5 for and obtain any necessary waiver(s), waiver amendment(s) and/or state plan amendments from the  
6 secretary of the United States department of health and human services, and to promulgate rules necessary  
7 to adopt an affirmative plan of program design and implementation that addresses the goal of allocating a  
8 minimum of fifty percent (50%) of Medicaid long-term care funding for persons aged sixty-five (65) and  
9 over and adults with disabilities, in addition to services for persons with developmental disabilities , to  
10 home and community-based care ; provided, further, the executive office shall report annually as part of its  
11 budget submission, the percentage distribution between institutional care and home and community-based  
12 care by population and shall report current and projected waiting lists for long-term care and home and  
13 community-based care services. The executive office is further authorized and directed to prioritize  
14 investments in home and community- based care and to maintain the integrity and financial viability of all  
15 current long-term care services while pursuing this goal.

16 (b) The reformed long-term care system re-balancing goal is person-centered and encourages  
17 individual self-determination, family involvement, interagency collaboration, and individual choice  
18 through the provision of highly specialized and individually tailored home- based services. Additionally,  
19 individuals with severe behavioral, physical, or developmental disabilities must have the opportunity to live  
20 safe and healthful lives through access to a wide range of supportive services in an array of community-  
21 based settings, regardless of the complexity of their medical condition, the severity of their disability, or  
22 the challenges of their behavior. Delivery of services and supports in less costly and less restrictive  
23 community settings, will enable children, adolescents, and adults to be able to curtail, delay, or avoid  
24 lengthy stays in long-term care institutions, such as behavioral health residential treatment facilities, long-  
25 term care hospitals, intermediate care facilities and/or skilled nursing facilities.



1 (c) Pursuant to federal authority procured under 42-7.2-16 of the general laws, the executive office  
2 of health and human services is directed and authorized to adopt a tiered set of criteria to be used to  
3 determine eligibility for services. Such criteria shall be developed in collaboration with the state's health  
4 and human services departments and, to the extent feasible, any consumer group, advisory board, or other  
5 entity designated for such purposes, and shall encompass eligibility determinations for long-term care  
6 services in nursing facilities, hospitals, and intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual  
7 disabilities as well as home and community-based alternatives, and shall provide a common standard of  
8 income eligibility for both institutional and home and community- based care. The executive office is  
9 authorized to adopt clinical and/or functional criteria for admission to a nursing facility, hospital, or  
10 intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities that are more stringent than those  
11 employed for access to home and community-based services. The executive office is also authorized to  
12 promulgate rules that define the frequency of re- assessments for services provided for under this section.  
13 Levels of care may be applied in accordance with the following:

14 (1) The executive office shall continue to apply the level of care criteria in effect on June 30, 2015  
15 for any recipient determined eligible for and receiving Medicaid-funded long-term services in supports in  
16 a nursing facility, hospital, or intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities on or before  
17 that date, unless:

18 (a) the recipient transitions to home and community based services because he or she would no  
19 longer meet the level of care criteria in effect on June 30, 2015; or

20 (b) the recipient chooses home and community-based services over the nursing facility, hospital,  
21 or intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities. For the purposes of this section, a  
22 failed community placement, as defined in regulations promulgated by the executive office, shall be  
23 considered a condition of clinical eligibility for the highest level of care. The executive office shall confer  
24 with the long-term care ombudsperson with respect to the determination of a failed placement under the  
25 ombudsperson's jurisdiction. Should any Medicaid recipient eligible for a nursing facility, hospital, or  
26 intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities as of June 30, 2015, receive a

1 determination of a failed community placement, the recipient shall have access to the highest level of care;  
2 furthermore, a recipient who has experienced a failed community placement shall be transitioned back into  
3 his or her former nursing home, hospital, or intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual  
4 disabilities whenever possible. Additionally, residents shall only be moved from a nursing home, hospital,  
5 or intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities in a manner consistent with applicable  
6 state and federal laws.

7 (2) Any Medicaid recipient eligible for the highest level of care who voluntarily leaves a nursing  
8 home, hospital, or intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities shall not be subject to  
9 any wait list for home and community-based services.

10 (3) No nursing home, hospital, or intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities  
11 shall be denied payment for services rendered to a Medicaid recipient on the grounds that the recipient does  
12 not meet level of care criteria unless and until the executive office has:

13 (i) performed an individual assessment of the recipient at issue and provided written notice to the  
14 nursing home, hospital, or intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities that the  
15 recipient does not meet level of care criteria; and

16 (ii) the recipient has either appealed that level of care determination and been unsuccessful, or any  
17 appeal period available to the recipient regarding that level of care determination has expired.

18 (d) The executive office is further authorized to consolidate all home and community-based  
19 services currently provided pursuant to 1915( c) of title XIX of the United States Code into a single system  
20 of home and community- based services that include options for consumer direction and shared living. The  
21 resulting single home and community-based services system shall replace and supersede all §1915(c)  
22 programs when fully implemented. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the resulting single program home and  
23 community-based services system shall include the continued funding of assisted living services at any  
24 assisted living facility financed by the Rhode Island housing and mortgage finance corporation prior to  
25 January 1, 2006, and shall be in accordance with chapter 66.8 of title 42 of the general laws as long as  
26 assisted living services are a covered Medicaid benefit.

1 (e) The executive office is authorized to promulgate rules that permit certain optional services  
2 including, but not limited to, homemaker services, home modifications, respite, and physical therapy  
3 evaluations to be offered to persons at risk for Medicaid-funded long-term care subject to availability of  
4 state-appropriated funding for these purposes.

5 (f) To promote the expansion of home and community-based service capacity, the executive office  
6 is authorized to pursue payment methodology reforms that increase access to homemaker, personal care  
7 (home health aide), assisted living, adult supportive care homes, and adult day services, as follows:

8 (1) Development, of revised or new Medicaid certification standards that increase access to service  
9 specialization and scheduling accommodations by using payment strategies designed to achieve specific  
10 quality and health outcomes.

11 (2) Development of Medicaid certification standards for state authorized providers of adult day  
12 services, excluding such providers of services authorized under 40.1-24-1(3), assisted living, and adult  
13 supportive care (as defined under 23-17.24) that establish for each, an acuity- based, tiered service and  
14 payment methodology tied to: licensure authority, level of beneficiary needs; the scope of services and  
15 supports provided; and specific quality and outcome measures.

16 The standards for adult day services for persons eligible for Medicaid-funded long-term services  
17 may differ from those who do not meet the clinical/functional criteria set forth in 40-8.10-3.

18 ~~(3) By October 1, 2016, institute an increase in the base payment rates for home care service~~  
19 ~~providers, in an amount to be determined through the appropriations process, for the purpose of~~  
20 ~~implementing a wage pass through program for personal care attendants and home health aides assisting~~  
21 ~~long term care beneficiaries. On or before September 1, 2016, Medicaid-funded home health providers~~  
22 ~~seeking to participate in the program shall submit to the secretary, for his or her approval, a written plan~~  
23 ~~describing and attesting to the manner in which the increased payment rates shall be passed through to~~  
24 ~~personal care attendants and home health aides in their salaries or wages less any attendant costs incurred~~  
25 ~~by the provider for additional payroll taxes, insurance contributions, and other costs required by federal or~~  
26 ~~state law, regulation, or policy and directly attributable to the wage pass through program established in~~

1 ~~this section. Any such providers contracting with a Medicaid managed care organization shall develop the~~  
2 ~~plan for the wage pass-through program in conjunction with the managed care entity and shall include an~~  
3 ~~assurance by the provider that the base rate increase is implemented in accordance with the goal of raising~~  
4 ~~the wages of the health workers targeted in this subsection. Participating providers who do not comply with~~  
5 ~~the terms of their wage pass-through plan shall be subject to a clawback, paid by the provider to the state,~~  
6 ~~for any portion of the rate increase administered under this section that the secretary deems appropriate. As~~  
7 ~~the state's Medicaid program seeks to assist more beneficiaries requiring long-term services and supports~~  
8 ~~in home and community-based settings, the demand for home care workers has increased, and wages for~~  
9 ~~these workers has not kept pace with neighboring states, leading to high turnover and vacancy rates in the~~  
10 ~~state's home care industry, the EOHHS shall institute a one-time increase in the base-payment rates for~~  
11 ~~home-care service providers to promote increased access to and an adequate supply of highly trained home~~  
12 ~~health care professionals, in amount to be determined by the appropriations process, for the purpose of~~  
13 ~~raising wages for personal care attendants and home health aides to be implemented by such providers; (i)~~  
14 ~~by October 1, 2017, and (ii) in a manner that meets specifications related to implementation and reporting~~  
15 ~~approved by the secretary.~~

16 (g) The executive office shall implement a long-term care options counseling program to provide  
17 individuals, or their representatives, or both, with long-term care consultations that shall include, at a  
18 minimum, information about: long-term care options, sources, and methods of both public and private  
19 payment for long-term care services and an assessment of an individual's functional capabilities and  
20 opportunities for maximizing independence. Each individual admitted to, or seeking admission to a long-  
21 term care facility, regardless of the payment source, shall be informed by the facility of the availability of  
22 the long-term care options counseling program and shall be provided with long-term care options  
23 consultation if they so request. Each individual who applies for Medicaid long-term care services shall be  
24 provided with a long-term care consultation.

25 (h) The executive office is also authorized, subject to availability of appropriation of funding, and  
26 federal Medicaid-matching funds, to pay for certain services and supports necessary to transition or divert

1 beneficiaries from institutional or restrictive settings and optimize their health and safety when receiving  
2 care in a home or the community . The secretary is authorized to obtain any state plan or waiver authorities  
3 required to maximize the federal funds available to support expanded access to such home and community  
4 transition and stabilization services; provided, however, payments shall not exceed an annual or per person  
5 amount.

6 (i) To ensure persons with long-term care needs who remain living at home have adequate resources  
7 to deal with housing maintenance and unanticipated housing related costs, the secretary is authorized to  
8 develop higher resource eligibility limits for persons or obtain any state plan or waiver authorities necessary  
9 to change the financial eligibility criteria for long-term services and supports to enable beneficiaries  
10 receiving home and community waiver services to have the resources to continue living in their own homes  
11 or rental units or other home-based settings.

12 (j) The executive office shall implement, no later than January 1, 2016, the following home and  
13 community-based service and payment reforms:

14 (1) Community-based supportive living program established in 40-8.13-2.12;

15 (2) Adult day services level of need criteria and acuity-based, tiered payment methodology; and

16 (3) Payment reforms that encourage home and community-based providers to provide the  
17 specialized services and accommodations beneficiaries need to avoid or delay institutional care.

18 (k) The secretary is authorized to seek any Medicaid section 1115 waiver or state plan amendments  
19 and take any administrative actions necessary to ensure timely adoption of any new or amended rules,  
20 regulations, policies, or procedures and any system enhancements or changes, for which appropriations  
21 have been authorized, that are necessary to facilitate implementation of the requirements of this section by  
22 the dates established. The secretary shall reserve the discretion to exercise the authority established under  
23 42-7.2-5(6)(v) and 42-7.2-6.1, in consultation with the governor, to meet the legislative directives  
24 established herein.

25 SECTION 4. Section 42-12-29 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-12 entitled "Department of  
26 Human Services" is hereby amended to read as follows:

1           **42-12-29. Children's health account.** – (a) There is created within the general fund a restricted  
2 receipt account to be known as the "children's health account." All money in the account shall be utilized  
3 by the ~~department of human services~~ executive office of health and human services (“executive office”) to  
4 effectuate coverage for the following service categories: (1) home health services, which include pediatric  
5 private duty nursing and certified nursing assistant services; (2) ~~Cedar~~ comprehensive, evaluation,  
6 diagnosis, assessment, referral and evaluation (~~CEDARR~~) (CEDAR) services, which include ~~CEDARR~~  
7 family center services, home based therapeutic services, personal assistance services and supports (PASS)  
8 and kids connect services and (3) child and adolescent treatment services (CAITS). All money received  
9 pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the children's health account. The general treasurer is  
10 authorized and directed to draw his or her orders on the account upon receipt of properly authenticated  
11 vouchers from the ~~department of human services~~ executive office.

12           (b) Beginning ~~January 1, 2016~~ July 1, 2017, a portion of the amount collected pursuant to 42-7.4-  
13 3, up to the actual amount expended or projected to be expended by the state for the services described in  
14 42-12-29(a), less any amount collected in excess of the prior year's funding requirement as indicated in 42-  
15 12-29(c), but in no event more than the limit set forth in 42-12-29(d) (the "child health services funding  
16 requirement"), shall be deposited in the "children's health account." The funds shall be used solely for the  
17 purposes of the "children's health account", and no other.

18           (c) The ~~department of human services~~ executive office shall submit to the general assembly an  
19 annual report on the program and costs related to the program, on or before February 1 of each year. The  
20 ~~department~~ executive office shall make available to each insurer required to make a contribution pursuant  
21 to 42-7.4-3, upon its request, detailed information regarding the children's health programs described in  
22 subsection (a) and the costs related to those programs. Any funds collected in excess of funds needed to  
23 carry out the programs shall be deducted from the subsequent year's funding requirements.

24           (d) The total amount required to be deposited into the children's health account shall be equivalent  
25 to the amount paid by the ~~department of human services~~ executive office for all services, as listed in

1 subsection (a), but not to exceed ~~seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500)~~ twelve thousand five hundred  
2 dollars (\$12,500) per child per service per year.

3 (e) The children's health account shall be exempt from the indirect cost recovery provisions of 35-  
4 4-27 of the general laws.

5 SECTION 5. Section 15 of Article 5 of Chapter 141 of the Public Laws of 2015 is hereby repealed.

6 ~~A pool is hereby established of up to \$2.5 million to support Medicaid Graduate Education funding~~  
7 ~~for Academic Medical Centers with level I Trauma Centers who provide care to the state's critically ill and~~  
8 ~~indigent populations. The office of Health and Human Services shall utilize this pool to provide up to \$5~~  
9 ~~million per year in additional Medicaid payments to support Graduate Medical Education programs to~~  
10 ~~hospitals meeting all of the following criteria:~~

11 (a) ~~Hospital must have a minimum of 25,000 inpatient discharges per year for all patients regardless~~  
12 ~~of coverage.~~

13 (b) ~~Hospital must be designated as Level I Trauma Center.~~

14 (c) ~~Hospital must provide graduate medical education training for at least 250 interns and residents~~  
15 ~~per year.~~

16 ~~The Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services shall determine the~~  
17 ~~appropriate Medicaid payment mechanism to implement this program and amend any state plan documents~~  
18 ~~required to implement the payments.~~

19 ~~Payments for Graduate Medical Education programs shall be made annually.~~

20 SECTION 6. This article shall take effect upon passage.