

1 AN ACT relating to the establishment of a Medicaid state-directed payment
2 program.

3 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

4 ➔Section 1. KRS 205.6412 is amended to read as follows:

5 To the extent permitted under federal law and in addition to, and separate from, the
6 programs developed pursuant to KRS 205.6406, the department shall develop
7 programs~~[a program]~~ to improve quality of and access to care for residents of the
8 Commonwealth enrolled in the state's Medicaid program by increasing Medicaid
9 reimbursement rates for qualifying hospitals in accordance with the following:

10 (1) (a) A qualifying hospital shall be eligible to earn enhanced add-on payments from
11 Medicaid managed care organizations based on the qualifying hospital's
12 average commercial rate for services provided, including but not limited to
13 inpatient hospital services, outpatient hospital services, and professional
14 services, if the qualifying hospital:

- 15 1. a. Is a participant in the hospital rate improvement program
16 developed pursuant to KRS 205.6406;
- 17 b. Is a Level II, III, or IV trauma center;
- 18 c. Is located in a county in which the percentage of the county's
19 population enrolled in the state's Medicaid program exceeds the
20 statewide median Medicaid enrollment percentage for all counties
21 as posted by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services in the
22 December edition of the Monthly Medicaid Counts by County
23 report for the calendar year preceding the year in which the
24 preprint is submitted; and
- 25 d. Has an agreement for clinical rotations to train providers with a
26 university-affiliated graduate medical education program; or
- 27 2. Is a pediatric teaching hospital as defined in KRS 205.565, except that a

1 hospital qualifying for enhanced add-on payments under this
 2 subparagraph shall only be eligible to receive enhanced add-on
 3 payments for services delivered to a patient who is eighteen (18) years
 4 of age or younger;

5 **(2) (a) Within sixty (60) days after the effective date of this Act, the Department for**
 6 **Medicaid Services shall submit a Medicaid preprint with a January 1, 2026,**
 7 **effective date to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**
 8 **seeking authorization to implement the state-directed payment program**
 9 **described in this subsection.**

10 **(b) If the preprint required to be submitted under paragraph (a) of this**
 11 **subsection is approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid**
 12 **Services, a qualifying hospital shall be eligible to earn enhanced add-on**
 13 **payments from Medicaid managed care organizations based on the**
 14 **equivalent Medicare rate for services, including but not limited to physician**
 15 **and nonphysician professional services, provided to Medicaid beneficiaries**
 16 **by the qualifying hospital's affiliated physician groups or physicians or**
 17 **other professionals employed by or contracted with the qualifying hospital if**
 18 **the qualifying hospital has an agreement to train providers with a state-**
 19 **owned university-affiliated graduate medical education program;**

20 **(3) For state-directed payments authorized under this section:**

21 ~~(a)~~~~(b)}~~ There shall be an identified source of funding, which shall be separate
 22 from the assessment authorized in KRS 205.6406 and shall not be from the
 23 general fund, for the nonfederal share that is in compliance with the
 24 requirements of the United States Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
 25 Services;

26 ~~(b)~~~~(c)}~~ A qualifying hospital shall be required to report the same quality
 27 measures as are applicable under:

1 1. The state university teaching hospital Medicaid directed payment plan
 2 for the payment program authorized under subsection (1) of this
 3 section; and

4 2. Similarly approved payment programs active in the Commonwealth
 5 for the payment program authorized under subsection (2) of this
 6 section; and

7 ~~(c)(d)~~ Reimbursement for qualifying hospitals under this section shall only
 8 apply to patients covered by a Medicaid managed care organization;~~[-]~~

9 ~~(4)(2)~~ The state-~~directed~~~~[directed]~~ payment programs~~[program]~~ authorized under
 10 this section shall be separate and distinct from any state-~~directed~~~~[directed]~~ payment
 11 program authorized under KRS 205.6406, and the department shall only implement
 12 the program described in this section if:

13 (a) Medicaid documentation required for federal financial participation is
 14 approved by the United States Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services;
 15 and

16 (b) The United States Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services agrees to
 17 consider the program through its own preprint and without affecting or
 18 altering any other state-~~directed~~~~[directed]~~ payment program; and~~[-]~~

19 ~~(5)(3)~~ The department shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance
 20 with KRS Chapter 13A to implement the programs~~[program]~~ described in this
 21 section.

22 ➔Section 2. If the Medicaid preprint required to be submitted under subsection
 23 (2) of Section 1 of this Act is approved by the federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare
 24 Services with a retroactive effective date of January 1, 2026, the Department for
 25 Medicaid Services shall, upon receipt of approval from the federal Centers for Medicare
 26 and Medicaid Services, direct each Medicaid managed care organization with which the
 27 department has contracted for delivery of Medicaid services to make retroactive

1 enhanced add-on payments to qualifying hospitals for any previously paid Medicaid
2 claims for physician and nonphysician professional services provided to a Medicaid
3 beneficiary on or after January 1, 2026, by the qualifying hospital's affiliated physician
4 groups or physicians or other professionals employed by or contracted with the qualifying
5 hospital.