

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley, MS
Director

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY

Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Stacie Weeks,
JD MPH
Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE TO SOLICIT COMMENT ON INTENT TO SUBMIT A STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH A REIMBURSEMENT METHODOLOGY FOR RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITALS

December 28, 2023

Name of Organization: Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP)

General public comments are encouraged to be submitted in writing. You may submit comments in one of two ways. (Please choose only one of the ways listed below):

Electronically: You may email comments to DocumentControl@dhcfnv.gov. Write "Reimbursement for Rural Emergency Hospitals" in the subject line.

Mail: You may mail written comments to the following address:
Division of Health Care Financing and Policy
ATTN: "Reimbursement for Rural Emergency Hospitals"
1100 E. William Street, Suite 101, Carson City, Nevada 89701

Purpose:

The purpose of this notice is to provide the public with information and to collect public feedback regarding the state's intent to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) for federal approval of a new reimbursement methodology for Rural Emergency Hospitals. The new methodology will be effective January 1, 2024.

The Division intends to publish the draft SPA and other supporting materials on its website within the coming months at: <http://dhcfnv.gov/>. Emails will be sent to such individuals as have requested public notice of SPAs and meetings (to request notifications please contact documentcontrol@dhcfnv.gov, or at 1100 East William Street, Suite 101, Carson City, Nevada 89701.

Overview: Effective January 1, 2023, a final rule was enacted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) establishing rural emergency hospitals as a new Medicare provider type. Per the rule, rural emergency hospitals (REHs) are authorized to provide emergency department services, observation care, and additional outpatient medical and health services so long as the annual per patient length of stay does not exceed 24 hours. More information on the federal guidance on rural emergency hospitals can be found here: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/health-safety-standards/guidance-for-laws-regulations/hospitals/rural-emergency-hospitals>

During the 2023 Legislative Session, Assembly Bill (AB) 277 was passed and signed into law. AB 277 allowed rural emergency hospitals to become licensed in Nevada. Additionally, AB 277 also directed the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy to implement a State Plan Amendment to "provide increased rates of reimbursement under the State Plan for rural emergency hospital services provided by a rural emergency hospital."

Methodology: The Division intends to reimburse rural emergency hospitals services at an amount equal to a 5 percent increase over the existing reimbursement rates for outpatient hospital services (provider type 12).

Expected Expenditures: The state anticipates an increase to annual medical aggregate expenditures to the Division's budget as follows to implement the new reimbursement methodology addressed above:

- **State Fiscal Year 2024:**
 - Total computable expenditures: \$1,852
 - State Share: \$439
- **State Fiscal Year 2025:**
 - Total computable expenditures: \$10,852
 - State Share: \$2,627

Notice Information

This notice has been posted online at <http://dhcfp.nv.gov>, as well as Carson City, Las Vegas, Elko, and Reno Central Offices for DHCFP. Email notice has been made to such individuals as have requested notice of meetings (to request notifications please contact documentcontrol@dhcfp.nv.gov, or at 1100 East William Street, Suite 101, Carson City, Nevada 89701. DHCFP, 1100 E. William St., Suite 101, Carson City, Nevada 89701 DHCFP, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 103, Elko, Nevada 89801 DHCFP, 1210 S. Valley View, Suite 104, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 DHCFP, 745 W. Moana Lane, Suite 200, Reno, Nevada 89509.

If you require a physical copy of this notice, please contact documentcontrol@dhcfp.nv.gov, or at 1100 East William Street, Suite 101, Carson City, Nevada 89701.

Public Hearing

The Division will host a public hearing prior to submitting the State Plan Amendment to seek further public comment. This public hearing will be held by the end of the first quarter of calendar year 2024. This information will be posted online at <http://dhcfp.nv.gov>, as well as Carson City, Las Vegas, Elko, and Reno central offices for DHCFP. Email notice has been made to such individuals as have requested notice of meetings (to request notifications please contact documentcontrol@dhcfp.nv.gov, or at 1100 East William Street, Suite 101, Carson City, Nevada 89701. DHCFP, 1100 E. William St., Suite 101, Carson City, Nevada 89701 DHCFP, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 103, Elko, Nevada 89801 DHCFP, 1210 S. Valley View, Suite 104, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 DHCFP, 745 W. Moana Lane, Suite 200, Reno, Nevada 89509.