



received
3-10-14

March 7, 2014

Tom Betlach, Director
AHCCCS Administration
801 E. Jefferson Street, MD 4100
Phoenix, Arizona 85034

Dear Director Betlach,

We appreciate all of the careful consideration your staff has given to the modeling of the provider assessment that is funding Medicaid Restoration in Arizona.

Tucson Medical Center has participated in the stakeholder meetings throughout the process, including the most recent that was held to discuss implementation of the statewide hospital assessment and chargemaster transparency.

As you are aware, in response to suggestions from the original 2014 assessment model, AHCCCS presented two alternatives. All three models continue to use 2011 patient discharges as a basis, and each results in estimated payments exceeding the assessment for all systems or independent hospitals.

We are supportive of the third model that excludes Medicare discharges from the assessment for all hospitals. We believe this is a more fair and balanced approach from a statewide perspective. Additionally, given that this is an assessment to fund the expansion of Medicaid, it is appropriate to base the assessment on those associated discharges.

We have expressed this opinion with your staff, but I wanted to convey our preference to you directly. Again, thank you for your continued careful consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Rich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Rich
President and CEO
Tucson Medical Center