

December 17, 2020

Mark Wong
Division of Medicaid and Children's Health Operations
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
90 Seventh Street, Suite 5-300 (5W)
San Francisco, CA 94103-6707

RE: Arizona SPA #20-025, Outpatient Hospital Rates

Dear Mr. Wong:

Enclosed is State Plan Amendment (SPA) #20-025, Outpatient Hospital Rates, which revises the State Plan to update the Outpatient Hospital rates, effective October 1, 2020. Please see below for information regarding the fiscal analysis, as well as public comment and Tribal Consultation requirements:

Public Comment:

- <https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/PublicNotices/>
- https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/Downloads/PublicNotices/rates/Final_NOPI_Rate_Changes_20201001.pdf;

Tribal Consultation:

- <https://www.azahcccs.gov/AmericanIndians/TribalConsultation/meetings.html>
https://www.azahcccs.gov/AmericanIndians/Downloads/Consultations/Meetings/2020/08132020_QuarterlyTribalConsultation.pdf

Fiscal Analysis:

	FFS Estimates	Federal Funds	
OP Hospital Rates-	30,300	23,600	77.85%

*Estimate is based on all populations blended FMAP for FFY21.

**Estimate assumes COVID PHE increased FMAP for 3 of 4 quarters in FFY21.

If you have any questions about the enclosed SPA, please contact Alex Demyan at (602) 417-4130.

Sincerely,



Dana Flannery
Assistant Director
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM CMS-179

Use Form CMS-179 to transmit State plan material to the regional office for approval. A separate typed transmittal form should be completed for each plan/amendment submitted.

Block 1 - Transmittal Number - Enter the State Plan Amendment transmittal number. Assign consecutive numbers on a **calendar year** basis (e.g., 92-001, 92-002, etc.).

Block 2 - State -Type the name of the State submitting the plan material.

Block 3 - Program Identification -Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid).

Block 4 - Proposed Effective Date - Enter the proposed effective date of material.

Block 5 -Type of Plan Material - Check the appropriate box.

Block 6 - Federal Statute/Regulation Citation - Enter the appropriate statutory/regulatory citation.

Block 7 - Federal Budget Impact - 7(a) - Enter 1st **Federal Fiscal Year** (FFY) impacted by the SPA & estimated Federal share of the cost of the SPA (in thousands) for 1st FFY. **7(b)** - Enter 2nd FFY impacted by the SPA & estimated Federal share of the cost for 2nd FFY. See SMM section 13026.

Block 8 - Page No.(s) of Plan Section or Attachment - Enter the page number(s) of plan material transmitted. If additional space is needed, use bond paper.

Block 9 - Page No.(s) of the Superseded Plan Section or Attachment (if Applicable) - Enter the page number(s) (including the transmittal sheet number) that is being superseded. If additional space is needed, use bond paper.

Block 10 - Subject of Amendment - Briefly describe plan material being transmitted.

Block 11 - Governor's Review - Check the appropriate box. See SMM section 13026 B.

Block 12 - Signature of State Agency Official -Authorized State official signs this block.

Block 13 -Typed Name -Type name of State official who signed block 12.

Block 14 -Title -Type title of State official who signed block 12.

Block 15 - Date Submitted - Enter the date you mail plan material to RO.

Block 16 - Return To -Type the name and address of State official to whom this form should be returned.

Block 17–23 (FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY).

Block 17 - Date Received - Enter the date plan material is received in RO. See ROM section 6003.2.

Block 18 - Date Approved - Enter the date RO approved the plan material.

Block 19 - Effective Date of Approved Material - Enter the date the plan material becomes effective. If more than one effective date, list each provision and its effective date in Block 23 or attach a sheet.

Block 20 - Signature of Regional Official -Approving RO official signs this block.

Block 21 -Typed Name -Type approving official's name.

Block 22 -Title -Type approving official's title.

Block 23 - Remarks - Use this block to reference pen and ink changes, a partial approval, more than one effective date, etc. If additional space is needed, use bond paper.

State: ARIZONA

METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES

OTHER TYPES OF CARE

The following is a description of methods and standards for determining payment rates for specific services when payments are made directly to providers. Fee-for-services payments are made in accordance with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System Fee-For-Service Provider Manual and are subject to the limitations set forth in Attachment 3.1-A of the State Plan. State developed fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and non-governmental providers, unless otherwise noted on the reimbursement pages. AHCCCS rates were set as of October 1, 2020~~18~~, and are effective for dates of service on or after that date. AHCCCS rates are published on the agency's website at <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/> and apply to the following services: Outpatient Hospital; Laboratory; Pharmacy; Hospice; Clinic Services, including Freestanding Ambulatory Surgery Centers and Freestanding Dialysis Centers; Migrant Health Center, Community Health Center and Homeless Health Center Services, Home Health Services, including Durable Medical Equipment, Supplies and Prosthetic Devices; Diagnostic, Screening and Preventive Services; EPSDT Services; Freestanding Birth Centers; Behavioral Health; Family Planning; Physician; Nurse-Midwife; Pediatric and Family Nurse Practitioner; Other Licensed Practitioner; Dental; Vision; Respiratory Care; Transportation; Private Duty Nurse; Other Practitioners; Physical Therapy; Occupational Therapy; Services for individuals with speech, hearing and language disorders; Prosthetic devices; Screening; Preventative; Rehabilitation.

● **Outpatient Hospital Services**

From July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, AHCCCS shall reimburse a hospital by applying a hospital-specific outpatient cost-to-charge ratio to covered charges. If the hospital increases its charges for outpatient services filed with the Arizona Department of Health Services by more than 4.7 per cent for dates of service effective on or after July 7, 2004, the hospital-specific cost-to-charge ratio will be reduced by the amount that it exceeds 4.7 per cent. If charges exceed 4.7 per cent, the effective date of the increased charges will be the effective date of the adjusted AHCCCS cost-to-charge ratio.

For dates of service beginning July 1, 2005, AHCCCS shall reimburse hospitals for outpatient acute care hospital services from a prospective fee schedule, by procedure code, established by AHCCCS. Hospitals with similar characteristics (peer groups) such as: rural/CAH designation, bed size, pediatric emphasis, special needs hospitals, public ownership, GME programs or Level I Trauma Centers, may be paid percentage adjustments above the fee schedule amount not to exceed the total payments received under comparable circumstances pursuant to Medicare upper limits. Rural hospitals, defined as hospitals in Arizona, but outside Maricopa and Pima counties, may be paid an adjustment above the fee schedule amount not to exceed the total payments received under comparable circumstances pursuant to Medicare upper limits.

Services that do not have an established fee specified by the AHCCCS' outpatient hospital prospective fee schedule will be paid by multiplying the charges for the service by a statewide outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. For dates of service July 1, 2005 through September 30, 2011, the statewide outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is computed from hospitals' 2002 Medicare Cost Reports.

For dates of service beginning October 1, 2011, the statewide cost-to-charge ratio calculation shall equal either the CMS Medicare Outpatient Urban or the CMS Medicare Outpatient Rural Cost to Charge Ratio for Arizona. The urban cost-to-charge ratio will be used for hospitals located in a county of 500,000 residents or more and for out-of-state hospitals. The rural cost-to-charge ratio will be used for hospitals located in a county of fewer than 500,000 residents.

Hospitals shall not be reimbursed for emergency room treatment, observation hours, or other outpatient hospital services performed on an outpatient basis, if the eligible person is admitted as an inpatient to the same hospital directly from the emergency room, observation or other outpatient department. The emergency room, observation, and other outpatient hospital services provided before the admission are included in the inpatient reimbursement.

Outpatient hospital payments shall be subject to the quick pay discounts and the slow pay penalties described in Attachment 4.19-A.

Rebase

AHCCCS will rebase the outpatient hospital fee schedule every five years.

TN No. 20-025

Supersedes

TN No. 19-012

Approval Date: _____

Effective Date: October 1, 2020

State: ARIZONA
METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES
OTHER TYPES OF CARE

Rate Updates

Notwithstanding the methods and rates as otherwise described, for claims with dates of service between April 1, 2011 and September 30, 2011, all payments for outpatient hospital services will be reduced by 5% of the payment that would otherwise have been made under the methodology in effect as of October 1, 2010, as described above.

For claims with dates of service effective from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2015, all payments for outpatient hospital services will be reduced by 5% under the methodology in effect as of October 1, 2011. For claims with dates of service effective October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016, all payments for outpatient hospital services will be made using the methodology in effect as of September 30, 2015 resulting in a year to year 0% aggregate impact on Outpatient Hospital Rates. For claims with dates of service effective on or after October 1, 20~~2019~~, outpatient hospital services will be made according to the AHCCCS fee schedule located on the AHCCCS website at <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/RatesAndBilling/FFS/>. These fees were updated October 1, 20~~2019~~ for a 0% aggregate impact.

TN No. 20-025

Approval Date: _____

Effective Date: October 1, 2020

Supersedes

TN No. 19-012