CHAPTER 70.
METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES; INPATIENT HOSPITAL CARE.

PART V.
INPATIENT HOSPITAL PAYMENT SYSTEM.

Article 1.
Application of Payment Methodologies.

12 VAC 30-70-200. Repealed.

12 VAC 30-70-201. Application of payment methodologies.

A. The state agency will pay for inpatient hospital services in general acute care hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, and freestanding psychiatric facilities licensed as hospitals under a prospective payment methodology. This methodology uses both per case and per diem payment methods. Article 2 (12 VAC 30-70-221 et seq.) describes the prospective payment methodology, including both the per case and the per diem methods.

B. Article 3 (12 VAC 30-70-400 et seq.) describes a per diem methodology that applied to a portion of payment to general acute care hospitals during state fiscal years 1997 and 1998, and that will continue to apply to patient stays with admission dates prior to July 1, 1996. Inpatient hospital services that are provided in long stay hospitals and state-owned rehabilitation hospitals shall be subject to the provisions of Supplement 3 (12 VAC 30-70-10 through 12 VAC 30-70-130).

C. Transplant services shall not be subject to the provisions of this part. These services shall continue to be subject to 12 VAC 30-50-100 through 12 VAC 30-50-310 and 12 VAC 30-50-540.

12 VAC 30-70-205. REPEALED.

Article 2.
Prospective (DRG-Based) Payment Methodology.

12 VAC 30-70-210. Repealed.

12 VAC 30-70-211. Reserved.

12 VAC 30-70-221. General.

A. Effective July 1, 2000, the prospective (DRG-based) payment system described in this article shall apply to inpatient hospital services provided in enrolled general acute care hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, and freestanding psychiatric facilities licensed as hospitals, unless otherwise noted.

B. The following methodologies shall apply under the prospective payment system:

1. As stipulated in 12 VAC 30-70-231, operating payments for DRG cases that are not transfer cases shall be determined on the basis of a hospital specific operating rate per case times the relative weight of the DRG to which the case is assigned.

2. As stipulated in 12 VAC 30-70-241, operating payments for per diem cases shall be determined on the basis of a hospital specific operating rate per day times the covered days for the case with the exception of payments for per diem cases in freestanding psychiatric facilities. Payments for per diem cases in freestanding psychiatric facilities licensed as hospitals shall be determined on the basis of a hospital specific rate per day that represents an all-inclusive payment for operating and capital costs.

3. As stipulated in 12 VAC 30-70-251, operating payments for transfer cases shall be determined as follows: (i) the transferring hospital shall receive an operating per diem payment, not to exceed the DRG operating payment that would have otherwise been made and (ii) the final discharging hospital shall receive the full DRG operating payment.

4. As stipulated in 12 VAC 30-70-261, additional operating payments shall be made for outlier cases. These additional payments shall be added to the operating payments determined in subdivisions 1 and 3 of this subsection.

5. As stipulated in 12 VAC 30-70-271, payments for capital costs shall be made on an allowable cost basis.

6. As stipulated in 12 VAC 30-70-281, payments for direct medical education costs of nursing schools and paramedical programs shall be made on an allowable cost basis. Payment for direct Graduate Medical Education (GME) costs for interns and residents shall be made quarterly on a prospective basis, subject to cost settlement based on the number of full time equivalent (FTE) interns and residents as reported on the cost report.

7. As stipulated in 12 VAC 30-70-291, payments for indirect medical education costs shall be made quarterly on a prospective basis.

8. As stipulated in 12 VAC 30-70-301, payments to hospitals that qualify as disproportionate share hospitals shall be made quarterly on a prospective basis.

C. The terms used in this article shall be defined as provided in this subsection:

"Base year" means the state fiscal year for which data is used to establish the DRG relative weights, the hospital case-mix indices, the base year standardized operating costs per case, and the base year standardized operating costs per day. The base year will

change when the DRG payment system is re-based and re-calibrated. In subsequent re-basing, the Commonwealth shall notify affected providers of the base year to be used in this calculation.

"Base year standardized costs per case" reflects the statewide average hospital costs per discharge for DRG cases in the base year. The standardization process removes the effects of case-mix and regional variations in wages from the claims data and places all hospitals on a comparable basis.

"Base year standardized costs per day" reflects the statewide average hospital costs per day for per diem cases in the base year. The standardization process removes the effects of regional variations in wages from the claims data and places all hospitals on a comparable basis. Base

year standardized costs per day were calculated separately, but using the same calculation methodology, for the different types of per diem cases identified in this subsection under the definition of "per diem cases."

"Cost" means allowable cost as defined in Supplement 3 (12 VAC 30-70-10 through 12 VAC 30-70-130) and by Medicare principles of reimbursement.

"Disproportionate share hospital" means a hospital that meets the following criteria:

1. A Medicaid utilization rate in excess of 15%, or a low-income patient utilization rate exceeding 25% (as defined in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 and as amended by the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988); and

2. At least two obstetricians with staff privileges at the hospital who have agreed to provide obstetric services to individuals entitled to such services under a state Medicaid plan. In the case of a hospital located in a rural area (that is, an area outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area as defined by the Executive Office of Management and Budget), the term "obstetrician" includes any physician with staff privileges at the hospital to perform non-emergency obstetric procedures.

3. Number 2 of this definition does not apply to a hospital:

a. At which the inpatients are predominantly individuals under 18 years of age; or

b. Which does not offer non-emergency obstetric services as of December 21, 1987.

"DRG cases" means medical/surgical cases subject to payment on the basis of DRGs. DRG cases do not include per diem cases.

"DRG relative weight" means the average standardized costs for cases assigned to that DRG divided by the average standardized costs for cases assigned to all DRGs.

"Groupable cases" means DRG cases having coding data of sufficient quality to support DRG assignment.

"Hospital case-mix index" means the weighted average DRG relative weight for all cases occurring at that hospital.

"Medicaid utilization percentage" is equal to the hospital's total Medicaid inpatient days divided by the hospital's total inpatient days for a given hospital fiscal year. The Medicaid utilization percentage includes days associated with inpatient hospital services provided to Medicaid patients but reimbursed by capitated managed care providers.

"Medicare wage index" and the "Medicare geographic adjustment factor" are published annually in the Federal Register by the Health Care Financing Administration. The indices and factors used in this article shall be those in effect in the base year.

"Operating cost-to-charge ratio" equals the hospital's total operating costs, less any applicable operating costs for a psychiatric DPU, divided by the hospital's total charges, less any applicable charges for a psychiatric DPU. The operating cost-to-charge ratio shall be calculated using data from cost reports from hospital fiscal years ending in the state fiscal year used as the base year.

"Outlier adjustment factor" means a fixed factor published annually in the Federal Register by the Health Care Financing Administration. The factor used in this article shall be the one in effect in the base year.

"Outlier cases" means those DRG cases, including transfer cases, in which the hospital's adjusted operating cost for the case exceeds the hospital's operating outlier threshold for the case.

"Outlier operating fixed loss threshold" means a fixed dollar amount applicable to all hospitals that shall be calculated in the base year so as to result in an expenditure for outliers operating payments equal to 5.1% of total operating payments for DRG cases. The threshold shall be updated in subsequent years using the same inflation values applied to hospital rates.

"Per diem cases" means cases subject to per diem payment and include (i) covered psychiatric cases in general acute care hospitals and distinct part units (DPUs) of general acute care hospitals (hereinafter "acute care psychiatric cases"), (ii) covered psychiatric cases in freestanding psychiatric facilities licensed as hospitals (hereinafter "freestanding psychiatric cases"), and (iii) rehabilitation cases in general acute care hospitals and rehabilitation hospitals (hereinafter "rehabilitation cases").

"Psychiatric cases" means cases with a principal diagnosis that is a mental disorder as specified in the ICD-9-CM. Not all mental disorders are covered. For coverage information, see Amount, Duration, and Scope of Services, Supplement 1 to Attachment 3.1 A&B (12 VAC 30-50-95 through 12 VAC 30-50-310). The limit of coverage of 21 days in a 60-day period for the same or similar diagnosis shall continue to apply to adult psychiatric cases.

"Psychiatric operating cost-to-charge ratio" for the psychiatric DPU of a general acute care hospital means the hospital's operating costs for a psychiatric DPU divided by the hospital's charges for a psychiatric DPU. In the base year, this ratio shall be calculated as described in the definition of "operating cost-to-charge ratio" in this subsection, using data from psychiatric DPUs.

“Readmissions” occur when patients are readmitted to the same hospital for the same or a similar diagnosis within five days of discharge. Such cases shall be considered a continuation of the same stay and shall not be treated as a new case. Similar diagnoses shall be defined as ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes possessing the same first three digits.

"Rehabilitation operating cost-to-charge ratio” for a rehabilitation unit or hospital means the provider's operating costs divided by the provider's charges. In the base year, this ratio shall be calculated as described in the definition of "operating cost-to-charge ratio" in this subsection, using data from rehabilitation units or hospitals.

“Statewide average labor portion of operating costs” means a fixed percentage applicable to all hospitals. The percentage shall be periodically revised using the most recent reliable data from the Virginia Health Information (VHI), or its successor.

"Transfer cases” means DRG cases involving patients (i) who are transferred from one general acute care hospital to another for related care or (ii) who are discharged from one general acute care hospital and admitted to another for the same or a similar diagnosis within five days of that discharge. Similar diagnoses shall be defined as ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes possessing the same first three digits.

“Type One” hospitals means those hospitals that were state-owned teaching hospitals on January 1, 1996. “Type Two” hospitals means all other hospitals.

“Ungroupable cases” means cases assigned to DRG 469 (principal diagnosis invalid as discharge diagnosis) and DRG 470 (ungroupable) as determined by the AP-DRG Grouper.

D. The All Patient Diagnosis Related Groups (AP-DRG) Grouper shall be used in the DRG payment system. Until notification of a change is given, Version 14.0 of this grouper shall be used. DMAS shall notify hospitals when updating the system to later grouper versions.

E. The primary data sources used in the development of the DRG payment methodology were the department’s hospital computerized claims history file and the cost report file. The claims history file captures available claims data from all enrolled, cost-reporting general acute care hospitals, including Type One hospitals. The cost report file captures audited cost and charge data from all enrolled general acute care hospitals, including Type One hospitals. The following table identifies key data elements that were used to develop the DRG payment methodology and that will be used when the system is recalibrated and rebased.

Data Elements for DRG Payment Methodology

Data Elements	Source
Total charges for each groupable case	Claims history file
Number of groupable cases in each DRG	Claims history file

Total number of groupable cases	Claims history file
Total charges for each DRG case	Claims history file
Total number of DRG cases	Claims history file
Total charges for each acute care psychiatric case	Claims history file
Total number of acute care psychiatric days for each acute care hospital	Claims history file
Total charges for each freestanding psychiatric case	Medicare cost reports
Total number of psychiatric days for each freestanding psychiatric hospital	Medicare cost reports
Total charges for each rehabilitation case	Claims history file
Total number of rehabilitation days for each acute care and freestanding rehabilitation hospital	Claims history file
Operating cost-to-charge ratio for each hospital	Cost report file
Operating cost-to-charge ratio for each freestanding psychiatric facility licensed as a hospital	Medicare cost reports
Psychiatric operating cost-to-charge ratio for the psychiatric DPU of each general acute care hospital	Cost report file
Rehabilitation cost-to-charge ratio for each rehabilitation unit or hospital	Cost report file
Statewide average labor portion of operating costs	VHI
Medicare wage index for each hospital	Federal Register
Medicare geographic adjustment factor for each hospital	Federal Register
Outlier operating fixed loss threshold	Claims History File
Outlier adjustment factor	Federal Register

12 VAC 30-70-281. Payment for direct medical education costs of nursing schools, paramedical programs, and graduate medical education for interns and residents.

A. Direct medical education costs of nursing schools and paramedical programs shall continue to be paid on an allowable cost basis. Payments for these direct medical education costs shall be made in estimated quarterly lump sum amounts and settled at the hospital's fiscal year end.

B. Final payment for these direct medical education (DMedEd) costs shall be the sum of the fee-for-service DMedEd payment and the managed care DMedEd payment. Fee-for-service DMedEd payment is the ratio of Medicaid inpatient costs to total allowable costs, times total DMedEd costs. Managed care DMedEd payment is equal to the managed care days times the ratio of fee-for-service DMedEd payments to fee-for-service days.

C. ~~Direct medical education shall not be a reimbursable cost in freestanding psychiatric facilities licensed as hospitals~~. Effective with cost reporting periods beginning on or after July 1, 2002, direct Graduate Medical Education (GME) costs for interns and residents shall be reimbursed on a per-resident prospective basis, subject to cost settlement as outlined in subdivision E of this section.

D. The new methodology provides for the determination of a hospital-specific base period per-resident amount to initially be calculated from cost reports with fiscal years ending in state fiscal year 1998 or as may be re-based in the future and provided to the

public in an agency guidance document. This per-resident amount shall be calculated by dividing a hospital's Medicaid allowable direct GME costs for the base period by its number of interns and residents in the base period yielding the base amount.

E. The base amount shall be updated annually by the DRI-Virginia moving average values as compiled and published by DRI•WEFA, Inc. (12 VAC 30-70-351). The updated per-resident base amount will then be multiplied by the weighted number of full time equivalent (FTE) interns and residents as reported on the annual cost report to determine the total Medicaid direct GME amount allowable for each year. Payments for direct GME costs shall be made in estimated quarterly lump sum amounts and settled at the hospital's fiscal year end based on the actual number of FTEs reported in the cost reporting period. The total Medicaid direct GME allowable amount shall be allocated to inpatient and outpatient services based on Medicaid's share of costs under each part.

F. Direct medical education shall not be a reimbursable cost in freestanding psychiatric facilities licensed as hospitals.

12 VAC 30-70-351. Updating rates for inflation.

Each July, the DRI-Virginia moving average values as compiled and published by ~~DRI/McGraw-Hill~~ DRI•WEFA, Inc. under contract with the department shall be used to update the base year standardized operating costs per case, as determined in 12 VAC 30-70-361, and the base year standardized operating costs per day, as determined in 12 VAC 30-70-371, to the midpoint of the upcoming state fiscal year. The most current table

available prior to the effective date of the new rates shall be used to inflate base year amounts to the upcoming rate year. Thus, corrections made by ~~DRI/McGraw-Hill~~ DRI•WEFA, Inc. in the moving averages that were used to update rates for previous state fiscal years shall be automatically incorporated into the moving averages that are being used to update rates for the upcoming state fiscal year.

A. Payments for services listed below shall be on the basis of reasonable cost following the standards and principles applicable to the Title XVIII Program with the exception provided for in subdivision 2 c of subsection D below. The upper limit for reimbursement shall be no higher than payments for Medicare patients on a facility by facility basis in accordance with 42 CFR 447.321 and 42 CFR 447.325. In no instance, however, shall charges for beneficiaries of the program be in excess of charges for private patients receiving services from the provider. The professional component for emergency room physicians shall continue to be uncovered as a component of the payment to the facility.

B. Reasonable costs will be determined from the filing of a uniform cost report by participating providers. The cost reports are due not later than 90 days after the provider's fiscal year end. If a complete cost report is not received within 90 days after the end of the provider's fiscal year, the Program shall take action in accordance with its policies to assure that an overpayment is not being made. The cost report will be judged complete when DMAS has all of the following:

1. Completed cost reporting form(s) provided by DMAS, with signed certification(s);

2. The provider's trial balance showing adjusting journal entries;

3. The provider's financial statements including, but not limited to, a balance sheet, a statement of income and expenses, a statement of retained earnings (or fund balance), and a statement of changes in financial position;

4. Schedules which reconcile financial statements and trial balance to expenses claimed in the cost report;

5. Depreciation schedule or summary;

6. Home office cost report, if applicable; and

7. Such other analytical information or supporting documents requested by DMAS when the cost reporting forms are sent to the provider.

C. Item 398 D of the 1987 Appropriation Act (as amended), effective April 8, 1987, eliminated reimbursement of return on equity capital to proprietary providers.

D. The services that are cost reimbursed are:

1. Inpatient hospital services to persons over 65 years of age in tuberculosis and mental disease hospitals

2. Outpatient hospital services excluding laboratory.

a. Definitions. The following words and terms, when used in this regulation, shall have the following meanings when applied to emergency services unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"All-inclusive" means all emergency department and ancillary service charges claimed in association with the emergency room visit, with the exception of laboratory services.

"DMAS" means the Department of Medical Assistance Services consistent with Chapter 10 (§32.1-323 et seq.) of Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia.

"Emergency hospital services" means services that are necessary to prevent the death or serious impairment of the health of the recipient. The threat to the life or health of the recipient necessitates the use of the most accessible hospital available that is equipped to furnish the services.

"Recent injury" means an injury which has occurred less than 72 hours prior to the emergency department visit.

b. Scope. DMAS shall differentiate, as determined by the attending physician's diagnosis, the kinds of care routinely rendered in emergency departments and reimburse for non-emergency care rendered in emergency departments at a reduced rate.

(1) With the exception of laboratory services, DMAS shall reimburse at a reduced and all-inclusive reimbursement rate for all services, including those obstetric and pediatric procedures contained in 12VAC30-80-160, rendered in emergency departments which DMAS determines were non-emergency care.

(2) Services determined by the attending physician to be emergencies shall be reimbursed under the existing methodologies and at the existing rates.

(3) Services performed by the attending physician which may be emergencies shall be manually reviewed. If such services meet certain criteria, they shall be paid under the methodology for (2) above. Services not meeting certain

criteria shall be paid under the methodology of (1) above. Such criteria shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) The initial treatment following a recent obvious injury.

(b) Treatment related to an injury sustained more than 72 hours prior to the visit with the deterioration of the symptoms to the point of requiring medical treatment for stabilization.

(c) The initial treatment for medical emergencies including indications of severe chest pain, dyspnea, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, spontaneous abortion, loss of consciousness, status epilepticus, or other conditions considered life threatening.

(d) A visit in which the recipient's condition requires immediate hospital admission or the transfer to another facility for further treatment or a visit in which the recipient dies.

(e) Services provided for acute vital sign changes as specified in the provider manual.

(f) Services provided for severe pain when combined with one or more of the other guidelines.

(4) Payment shall be determined based on ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes and necessary supporting documentation.

(5) DMAS shall review on an ongoing basis the effectiveness of this program in achieving its objectives and for its effect on recipients, physicians, and hospitals. Program components may be revised subject to achieving program intent, the accuracy and effectiveness of the ICD-9-CM code designations, and the impact on recipients and providers.

c. Outpatient reimbursement methodology. DMAS shall continue to reimburse for outpatient hospital services, with the exception of

direct graduate medical education for interns and residents, at 100% of reasonable costs less a 10 percent reduction for capital costs and a 5.8 percent reduction for operating costs.

d. Payment for direct medical education costs of nursing schools, paramedical programs and graduate medical education for interns and residents:

(1) Direct medical education costs of nursing schools and paramedical programs shall continue to be paid on an allowable cost basis.

(2) Effective with cost reporting periods beginning on or after July 1, 2002, direct Graduate Medical Education (GME) costs for interns and residents shall be reimbursed on a per-resident prospective basis. See 12 VAC 30-70-281 for prospective payment methodology for graduate medical education for interns and residents.

3. Rural health clinic services provided by rural health clinics or other federally qualified health centers defined as eligible to receive grants under the Public Health Services Act §§329, 330, and 340.

4. Rehabilitation agencies. Reimbursement for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language therapy services shall not be provided for any sums that the rehabilitation provider collects, or is

entitled to collect, from the NF or any other available source, and provided further, that this amendment shall in no way diminish any obligation of the NF to DMAS to provide its residents such services, as set forth in any applicable provider agreement.

5. Comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities.

6. Rehabilitation hospital outpatient services.