



The Hospital + Healthsystem
Association of Pennsylvania

HAP Federal Advocacy Priorities

End of 118th Congress

Pennsylvania hospitals face mounting challenges to providing 24/7 care for their communities. Amid increased costs, workforce shortages, Medicare and Medicaid underpayments, and regulatory burdens, more than half of Pennsylvania's acute care hospitals operated at loss last year. Congress must take action before the end of this session to ensure quality health care for all Pennsylvanians.

Medicaid DSH

Hospitals that qualify for Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospitals (DSH) payments care for low-income and uninsured patients. Without congressional action, a harmful cut to the program will go into effect January 1, 2025. This reduction of \$509 million to Pennsylvania will jeopardize access to care for our most vulnerable populations, including children, people with disabilities, and older adults.

Please support legislation preventing Medicaid DSH cuts.

Medicare Dependent Hospitals (MDH) and Low Volume Hospitals (LVH)

The MDH program supports small, rural hospitals that care for older adults and rely heavily on Medicare payments to sustain operations. The LVH adjustment supports small, rural hospitals that are unable to achieve economies of scale due to a limited number of discharges. At the end of 2024, these programs will be cut by \$23.5 million annually in Pennsylvania.

Please support continued funding for the MDH program and LVH adjustment.

PAYGO

With the start of the new year, a 4 percent, across-the-board cut to Medicare will go into effect. This cut of \$332 million annually will further destabilize Pennsylvania hospitals.

Please support legislation preventing PAYGO cuts.

Site-Neutral Payments

Harmful site-neutral payment policies fail to recognize the fundamental differences between hospital outpatient departments and physician practices. Site-neutral policies proposed in Congress would result in billions of dollars in cuts for services provided in hospital outpatient departments and threaten Medicare beneficiaries' access to care in communities across the state.

Please oppose site-neutral legislation.

Telehealth and Hospital-at-Home

Since the pandemic, hospitals have leveraged telehealth and hospital-at-home programs to provide efficient, safe, and quality care. Hospital-at-home helps patients access hospital-level care at home.

Please extend telehealth flexibilities and the acute care hospital-at-home program.

Physician Payment

Hospital physicians are the backbones of our institutions. Continued underpayments are simply untenable for these doctors to provide quality care.

Please support increased payments to physicians.

Medicare Advantage (MA) Prior Authorization

Patients' care is being delayed by prior authorization requests and claims denials. MA plans are increasingly using these tools to boost profits by targeting post-acute care facilities. In 2022, 46 million prior authorization requests were submitted to MA insurers.

Please support the Seniors Timely Access to Care Act to improve to improve the MA prior authorization process.

Workplace Violence – SAVE Act

Pennsylvania's health care professionals are increasingly facing violence at work, caring for patients while being threatened, injured, or worse. Hospitals are focused on efforts to enhance safe workplaces. Making violence against hospital staff a federal crime is another necessary step to keep health care professionals safe.

Please support the Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act.

National Provider Identifier (NPI)

Under a policy that would increase regulatory burdens on hospitals, every hospital outpatient department would be required to have a separate NPI and an attestation that the provider is compliant with Medicare provider-based regulations. Further increasing administrative burdens on Pennsylvania hospitals undermines patient care.

Please oppose NPI legislation.

Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act

Children's access to critical care is being hampered by Medicaid requirements for out-of-state patients. The Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act would improve access to care by streamlining the burdensome and time-consuming Medicaid provider screening and enrollment process.

Please support the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act.

Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Act Reauthorization

Front-line health care workers often experience burnout or behavioral health concerns. This legislation provides grants to support behavioral health services for front-line health care workers.

Please support the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act.