



EXPEDITED RULE MAKING

CR-105 (June 2024) (Implements RCW 34.05.353)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: June 27, 2025

TIME: 7:51 AM

WSR 25-14-063

Agency: Health Care Authority

Title of rule and other identifying information: (describe subject) 182-550-4800 Hospital payment methods – State administered programs

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: To clarify language without changing the rules effect. Updating chemical-using pregnant (CUP) women to substance-using pregnant people (SUPP). The revision allows for alignment with agency standard language.

Reasons supporting proposal: See purpose

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 41.05.21, 41.05.160

Statute being implemented: RCW 41.05.21, 41.05.160

Is rule necessary because of a:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Federal Law? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Federal Court Decision? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| State Court Decision? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

If yes, CITATION:

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Health Care Authority

- Private
 Public
 Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Valerie Freudenstein	PO Box 42716, Olympia, WA 98504-2716	360-725-1344
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Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters: None

Expedited Adoption - Which of the following criteria was used by the agency to file this notice:

- Relates only to internal governmental operations that are not subject to violation by a person;
- Adopts or incorporates by reference without material change federal statutes or regulations, Washington state statutes, rules of other Washington state agencies, shoreline master programs other than those programs governing shorelines of statewide significance, or, as referenced by Washington state law, national consensus codes that generally establish industry standards, if the material adopted or incorporated regulates the same subject matter and conduct as the adopting or incorporating rule;
- Corrects typographical errors, make address or name changes, or clarify language of a rule without changing its effect;
- Content is explicitly and specifically dictated by statute;
- Have been the subject of negotiated rule making, pilot rule making, or some other process that involved substantial participation by interested parties before the development of the proposed rule; or
- Is being amended after a review under RCW 34.05.328.

Expedited Repeal - Which of the following criteria was used by the agency to file notice:

- The statute on which the rule is based has been repealed and has not been replaced by another statute providing statutory authority for the rule;
- The statute on which the rule is based has been declared unconstitutional by a court with jurisdiction, there is a final judgment, and no statute has been enacted to replace the unconstitutional statute;
- The rule is no longer necessary because of changed circumstances; or
- Other rules of the agency or of another agency govern the same activity as the rule, making the rule redundant.

Explanation of the reason the agency believes the expedited rule-making process is appropriate pursuant to RCW 34.05.353(4): This proposal clarifies language of the rule without changing its effect.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO

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Agency: Health Care Authority

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BEGINNING (date/time) June 28, 2025, 8:00 a.m. **AND RECEIVED BY** (date/time) September 3, 2025, 11:59 PM

Date: June 27, 2025

Name: Wendy Barcus

Title: HCA Rules Coordinator

Signature:



WAC 182-550-4800 Hospital payment methods—State-administered programs. This section does not apply to out-of-state hospitals unless they are border hospitals (critical or noncritical).

(1) The medicaid agency:

(a) Pays for services provided to a client eligible for a state-administered program (SAP) based on SAP rates;

(b) Establishes SAP rates independently from the process used in setting the medicaid payment rates;

(c) Calculates a ratable each year to adjust each hospital's SAP rates for their percentage of community-based dollars to the total revenues for all hospitals;

(d) Calculates an equivalency factor (EF) to keep the SAP payment rates at the same level before and after the medicaid rates were re-based.

(2) The agency has established the following:

(a) SAP diagnosis-related group (DRG) conversion factor (CF) for claims grouped under DRG classifications services;

(b) SAP per diem rates for claims grouped under the following specialty service categories:

(i) (~~Chemical-using pregnant (CUP) women~~) Substance-using pregnant people (SUPP);

(ii) Detoxification;

(iii) Physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R); and

(iv) Psychiatric.

(c) SAP ratio of costs-to-charges (RCC) for claims grouped under transplant services.

(3) This subsection describes the SAP DRG CF and payment calculation processes used by the agency to pay claims using the DRG payment method. The agency pays for services grouped to a DRG classification provided to clients eligible for a SAP based on the use of a DRG CF, a DRG relative weight, and a maximum service adjustor. This process is similar to the payment method used to pay for medicaid and CHIP services grouped to a DRG classification.

(a) The agency's SAP DRG CF calculation process is as follows:

(i) The hospital's specific DRG CF used to calculate payment for a SAP claim is the medicaid DRG CF multiplied by the applicable EF multiplied by the ratable;

(ii) For hospitals that do not have a ratable or an EF, the SAP CF is the hospital's specific medicaid CF multiplied by the average EF and the average ratable; and

(iii) For noncritical border hospitals, the SAP DRG CF is the lowest in-state medicaid DRG CF multiplied by the average ratable and the average EF.

(b) The agency calculates the SAP DRG EF as follows:

(i) The hospital-specific current SAP DRG CF is divided by the rebased medicaid DRG CF and then divided by the ratable factor to compute the preliminary EF.

(ii) The current SAP DRG payment is determined by multiplying the hospital-specific SAP DRG CF by the APR-DRG relative weight.

(iii) The current aggregate DRG payment is determined by summing the current SAP DRG payments for all hospitals.

(iv) The hospital projected SAP DRG payment is determined by multiplying the hospital-specific current SAP DRG CF by the APR-DRG relative weights and the maximum service adjustor.

(v) The projected aggregate DRG payment is determined by summing the projected SAP program DRG payments for all hospitals.

(vi) The aggregate amounts derived in (b)(iii) and (v) of this subsection are compared to identify a neutrality factor that keeps the projected aggregate SAP DRG payment (based on APR-DRG relative weights) at the same level as the previous aggregate SAP DRG payment (based on APR-DRG relative weights).

(vii) The neutrality factor is multiplied by the hospital-specific preliminary EF to determine the hospital-specific final EF that is used to determine the SAP DRG conversion factors for the rebased system implementation.

(c) The agency calculates the DRG payment for services paid under the DRG payment method as follows:

(i) The agency calculates the allowed amount for the inlier portion of the SAP DRG payment by multiplying the SAP DRG CF by the DRG relative weight and the maximum service adjustor.

(ii) SAP claims are also subject to outlier pricing. See WAC 182-550-3700 for details on outlier pricing.

(4) This subsection describes how the agency calculates the SAP per diem rate and payment for ((CUP)) SUPP, detoxification, PM&R, and psychiatric services.

(a) The agency calculates the SAP per diem rate for in-state and critical border hospitals by multiplying the hospital's specific medicaid per diem by the ratable and the per diem EF.

(b) The agency calculates the SAP per diem rate for noncritical border hospitals by multiplying the lowest in-state medicaid per diem rate by the average ratable and the average per diem EF.

(c) For hospitals with more than (~~twenty~~) 20 nonpsychiatric SAP per diem paid services during SFY 2011, the agency calculates a per diem EF for each hospital using the individual hospital's claims as follows:

(i) The agency calculates a SAP average payment per day by dividing the total current SAP per diem payments by the total number of days associated with the payments.

(ii) The agency calculates a medicaid average payment per day by dividing the aggregate payments based on the rebased medicaid rates by the total number of days associated with the aggregate payments (same claims used in (c)(i) of this subsection).

(iii) The agency divides the hospital estimated SAP average payment per day in (a) of this subsection by the hospital medicaid average payment per day in (b) of this subsection.

(iv) The agency divides the result of (c)(iii) of this subsection by the hospital-specific ratable factor to determine the EF.

(d) For hospitals with (~~twenty~~) 20 or less nonpsychiatric SAP per diem paid services during SFY 2011, the EF is an average for all hospitals. The agency uses the following process to determine the average EF:

(i) The agency calculates a SAP average payment per day by dividing the total current SAP per diem payments for all hospitals by the total number of days associated with the aggregate payments.

(ii) The agency calculates a medicaid average payment per day by dividing the aggregate payments based on the rebased medicaid rates by the total number of days associated with the aggregate payment (same claims used in (d)(i) of this subsection).

(iii) The agency divides the SAP average per day in (a) of this subsection by the medicaid average payment per day in (b) of this subsection.

(iv) The agency divides the result of (d)(iii) of this subsection by the hospital-specific ratable factor to determine the EF. The EF is an average based on claims for all the hospitals in the group.

(e) The agency uses a psychiatric EF to keep SAP psychiatric rates at the level required by the Washington state legislature. The agency's SAP psychiatric rates are eighty-five and four one hundredths of a percent (85.04%) of the agency's medicaid psychiatric rates. The factor is applied to all hospitals.

(f) The agency calculates the SAP per diem allowed amount for ((EUP)) SUPP, detoxification, PM&R, and psychiatric services by multiplying the hospital's SAP per diem rate by the agency's allowed patient days.

(g) The agency does not apply the high outlier or transfer policy to the payment calculations for ((EUP)) SUPP, detoxification, PM&R, and psychiatric services.

(5) The agency calculates the SAP RCC by multiplying the medicaid RCC by the hospital's ratable.

(6) The agency annually establishes the hospital-specific ratable factor used in the calculation of SAP payment rate based on the most current hospital revenue data available from the department of health (DOH). The agency uses the following process to determine the hospital ratable factor:

(a) The agency adds the hospital's medicaid revenue, medicare revenue, charity care, and bad debts as reported in DOH data.

(b) The agency determines the hospital's community care dollars by subtracting the hospital's low-income disproportionate share hospital (LIDSH) payments from the amount derived in (a) of this subsection.

(c) The agency calculates the hospital net revenue by subtracting the hospital-based physician revenue (based on information available from the hospital's medicare cost report or provided by the hospitals) from the DOH total hospital revenue report.

(d) The agency calculates the preliminary hospital-specific ratable by dividing the amount derived in (b) of this subsection by the amount derived in (c) of this subsection.

(e) The agency determines a neutrality factor by comparing the hospital-specific medicaid revenue (used in (a) of this subsection) multiplied by the preliminary ratable to the hospital-specific medicaid revenue (used in (a) of this subsection) multiplied by the prior year ratable. The neutrality factor is used to keep the projected SAP payments at the same current payment level.

(f) The agency determines the final hospital-specific ratable by multiplying the hospital-specific preliminary ratable by the neutrality factor.

(g) The agency applies to the allowable for each SAP claim all applicable adjustments for client responsibility, any third-party liability, medicare payments, and any other adjustments as determined by the agency.

(7) The agency does not pay a SAP claim paid by the DRG method at greater than the billed charges.

(8) SAP rates do not apply to the critical access hospital (CAH) program's weighted cost-to-charges, to the long-term acute care (LTAC) program's per diem rate, or to the certified public expenditure (CPE)

program's RCC (except as the RCC applies to the CPE hold harmless described under WAC 182-550-4670).