



maryland  
**health services**  
cost review commission

---

## Interagency Meeting on Implementing Law providing Reimbursements for Hospital Patients

April 18, 2024

Megan Renfrew

# Agenda

Topic	Time
Welcome	1:00 - 1:05
Update on December - March	1:05 - 1:15
New Process and Work Plan / Timeline- Discussion	1:15- 1:55
Follow-Up Items	1:55 – 2:00

# Principles for Completing Work

- **Collaboration**  
Focus on implementing the law with a collaborative spirit
- **Transparency**  
Ensure that key stakeholders have input to decisions
- **Shared Responsibility**  
HSCRC will organize the work (project management)  
State and hospital partners are key to success  
Some work will occur between meetings or in smaller groups

# Overview of Law

HSCRC must develop a process that:

1. Identifies patients who paid more than \$25 for hospitals services who may have qualified for free care under Health General §19–214.1 on the date the hospital service was provided during calendar years 2017 through 2021;
2. Provides reimbursement to the identified patients, which may be applied “incrementally”;
3. Ensures that a patient’s alternate address is used if the patient requested an alternate address for safety reasons; and
4. Determines how HSCRC, MDH, DHS, the Office of the Comptroller, and MSDE should share and disclose relevant information, including tax information, to the minimum extent necessary, to the hospital and in accordance with federal and state confidentiality laws for the purpose of carrying out the required process.

HSCRC must coordinate with MDH, DHS, the Office of the Comptroller, MSDE, and the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA).

Health General § 19-214.4, as amended by [Chapter 310 \(2023\)](#)

## Update on December-March

1. Identified major operational challenges w/ sharing state data because of restrictions on 3rd party use.
2. Legal authority to make changes to approach: Health General 19-214.4(d)(1)  
  
“The Commission may modify the process .... as necessary.”
3. Legislative meetings → new proposed process/data flow
4. Deadlines: Update in June, Start Data Exchange by January 2025.

## Review New Process & Revised Work Plan

**Goal:** Eliminate sharing of PII between state agencies and eliminate sharing of State data w/ Hospitals.

**Review:** Flow Chart and Work Plan

**Discussion:** Strengths and Challenges of new process

# Subgroups

- 1) **Policy & Legal** - The purpose of the Policy and Legal workgroup is advise HSCRC on the MOU, DUA, and SOW and other policy and legal issues to support the implementation the hospital medical bill reimbursement process.
- 2) **Data Management** - The purpose of the data workgroup is to advise HSCRC on rules around data management, secure transfer, matching methodology, and similar topics to support the requirements of the hospital medical bill reimbursement process.
- 3) **Consumer Support and Communications** - The purpose of the consumer support and communications workgroup is to advise HSCRC on the development of policies and implementation plans for consumer support and consumer communications to support the requirements of the hospital medical bill reimbursement process.

# Discussion: Subgroup Structure

## Issue:

1. There are some people that attend all of the groups. Others have specialized skills (e.g. data security or communications) that are only relevant to one group.
2. Some topics are only relevant to one group, while others impact all groups.

## Current Groups

- Policy & Legal
- Data Management
- Consumer Support and Communications

## Discussion

1. Should the groups be condensed/combined?
2. Should there be an combined workgroup in addition to the subgroups, and these groups report to the combined group periodically?



## Next Steps

1. **All- Meeting Membership-** Please review invite list. Does anything need to change?
2. **HSCRC-** Schedule Future Meetings

# Thank you!

- Megan Renfrew, Associate Director of External Affairs
  - [Megan.Renfrew1@Maryland.gov](mailto:Megan.Renfrew1@Maryland.gov)
  - 410-382-3855 (cell)
- Paul Katz, Program Analyst
  - [Paul.Katz@Maryland.gov](mailto:Paul.Katz@Maryland.gov)