



Rural Multi-Payer Model

Background

The Health Care Authority (HCA) is currently engaging rural providers, payers, and other partners to participate in a rural multi-payer model aimed at supporting rural health system transformation. HCA is also in the process of negotiating with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services about Medicare's participation in a new payment model. To date, WSHA and its rural hospital members have actively engaged in this process with HCA. Details regarding the plan continue to evolve.

WSHA Position

WSHA supports the legislature establishing reasonable guardrails for the new payment model that will ensure the long-term sustainability of the rural health system and maintain local community decision making. We believe that transformation is crucial to ensure our rural hospitals are able to continue to deliver high quality, local care. Rural hospitals vary in size and each rural community is unique and the challenges they face are complex. Some rural hospitals are struggling financially. Any new payment system must work for all rural hospitals.

Key Messages

- Participation in any new payment model must be voluntary.
- Washington's rural hospitals are committed to transforming to better meet the needs of their local communities.
- Care transformation requires investment; hospitals must be supported as they transition to a new model.
- Different sized hospitals have different needs. Any new payment model must work for the unique needs of small and large hospitals alike.
- WSHA's members are committed to working with the legislature and the Health Care Authority to find a sustainable model for rural health care.

Contact Information

Jacqueline Barton True
Senior Director, Rural Health Programs
JacquelineB@wsaha.org | 206.216.2541

Lisa Thatcher
WSHA Lobbyist
LisaThatcher@comcast.net | 253.686.8746