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STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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100 NORTH UNION STREET, SUITE 870

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

March 14, 2016

Honorable Robert Bentley, Governor
State of Alabama
State Capitol
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Governor Bentley:

At the March 11, 2016 meeting of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC), the SHCC adopted the attached adjustment to Section 410-2-4-.08(5) of the 2014-2017 Alabama State Health Plan. This proposed adjustment allows for the addition of ten (10) inpatient rehabilitation beds in Houston County.

This rule was processed in accordance with the State Health Plan and the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act. Rule 410-2-5-.04(4)(d) of the State Health Plan provides that a plan adjustment shall be deemed disapproved by the Governor if not acted upon within fifteen (15) days. Upon your approval, the adjustment will be added to Section 410-2-4-.08(5) of the 2014-2017 Alabama State Health Plan.

You have the approval/disapproval authority for the Alabama State Health Plan and all amendments/adjustments thereto. I recommend your approval.

Call me at 242-4103 if you have questions about this proposed adjustment.

Sincerely,

Alva M. Lambert (handwritten signature)

Alva M. Lambert
Executive Director

Attachment: as stated

APPROVED: _____ Date _____

Gov. Robert Bentley

DISAPPROVED: Robert Bentley Date March 25, 2016

Gov. Robert Bentley

410-2-4-.08 Inpatient Physical Rehabilitation

(1) Definition. Inpatient physical rehabilitation services are those designed to be provided on an integrated basis by a multidisciplinary rehabilitation team to restore the disabled individual to the highest physical usefulness of which he is capable. These services may be provided in a distinct part unit of a hospital, as defined in the Medicare and Medicaid Guidelines, or in a free-standing rehabilitation hospital.

(2) General. Rehabilitation can be viewed as the third phase of the medical care continuum, with the first being the prevention of illness, the second, the actual treatment of disease, and the third, rehabilitation or a constructive system of treatment designed to enable individuals to attain their highest degree of functioning. In many cases, all three phases can occur simultaneously. For the purposes of this section of the State Health Plan, only the need and inventory of inpatient rehabilitation facilities will be addressed.

(3) Need Determination. The Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) has determined that there is a need for 12 rehabilitation beds per 100,000 population for each region (see Table I).

(4) Planning Policies

(a) Planning Policy

Regional occupancy for the most recent reporting year should be at least 75% before the SHCC gives consideration to any requests for plan adjustments for additional bed capacity.

(b) Planning Policy

Conversion of existing hospital beds to rehabilitation beds should be given priority consideration over new construction when the conversion is significantly less costly and the existing structure can meet licensure and certification requirements.

(5) Accessibility-Distribution. Inpatient Rehabilitation services appear to be well distributed in the most populous regions of Alabama, with the exception of Region V, the largest of the seven planning regions. The SHCC, through the adjustment process in August of 2005, recognized the need for 5 additional rehabilitation beds to be located in Houston County. Future consideration should be given to locating a unit in Dallas County to serve the western counties of Region V. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, recognizing the need for additional inpatient rehabilitation hospital beds in Russell County, the SHCC, through the adjustment process in August of 2015, adjusted the planning policy to recognize the need for 10 additional inpatient rehabilitation beds to be located in Russell County, Alabama. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, recognizing the need for additional inpatient rehabilitation hospital beds in Houston County, the SHCC, through the adjustment process in December of 2015, adjusted the planning policy to recognize the need for ten (10) additional inpatient rehabilitation beds to be located in Houston County, Alabama.

Author: Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC).

Statutory Authority: § 22-21-260(4), Code of Alabama, 1975.

History: Effective November 22, 2004; Amended: August 30, 2005; Filed June 30, 2006;
Effective: August 4, 2006.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROBERT BENTLEY
GOVERNOR



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STATE HEALTH PLAN
AND REVENUE AGENCY

STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
(334) 242-7100
FAX: (334) 242-3282

STATE OF ALABAMA

March 24, 2016

Mary Holcomb
Chair, Statewide Health Coordinating Council

Dear Ms. Holcomb:

I have today disapproved the proposed adjustment to the state health plan to allow 10 additional inpatient rehabilitation beds in Houston County.

The Statewide Health Coordinating Council has received many several recent requests to expand the number of inpatient rehabilitation beds in Alabama beyond the levels called for in the state health plan. Council members have told me they expect more such applications to be filed soon.

Given the recent and expected rise in applications, I think we should pause to re-examine the number of inpatient rehabilitation beds we now have in the state and the number that will be needed in coming years to meet growing demand. I also want to take a hard look at the type of rehabilitation services now offered, the settings in which those services are provided, the cost of providing those services, and the quality of outcomes we are getting for the people of our state.

So I am appointing a Rehabilitation Review Committee of five members of the Alabama Health Care Improvement Task Force, plus my health policy advisor, Dave White, to deliver to me by Sept. 30 a report that outlines where we are and the specific steps we need to take to meet future inpatient rehabilitation needs. The Task Force has done an excellent job identifying ways to improve the health of Alabamians and I am confident this committee will deliver a quality report.

I do not plan to entertain further requests for adjustments to the state health plan to allow additional inpatient rehabilitation beds until after this committee makes its report.

Thank you for your service to the state of Alabama.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert Bentley in cursive script.
Robert Bentley
Governor