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WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE - WIC

DIVISION 9. PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES [10000 - 18999.98] (Division 9 added by Stats. 1965, Ch. 1784.) PART 4.7. HEALTH CARE FOR INDIGENTS [16900 - 16996.2] (Heading for Part 4.7 added by Stats. 1990, Ch. 50, Sec. 10.5.)

CHAPTER 3. Uncompensated Care Assistance [16920 - 16924] (Chapter 3 added by Stats. 1989, Ch. 1331, Sec. 9.)

- 16920. (a) It is the intention of the Legislature to appropriate a portion of the 1988–89 fiscal year one-time revenues from the Hospital Services Account for distribution to each county and noncounty hospital which provides uncompensated care to unsponsored patients, with payments based upon the proportion of each hospital's share of the 1988 calendar year statewide total of uncompensated care rendered to unsponsored patients.
- (b) It is the intention of the Legislature to partially and proportionately compensate each hospital that provides care to unsponsored patients and to provide an economic incentive for all hospitals to provide, maintain, and enhance access to care.
- (c) For purposes of this section, "uncompensated care charges" means the sum of the charges related to patients falling within charity care and 50 percent of bad debts, as reported quarterly to the office pursuant to Section 128740 of the Health and Safety Code. The office shall use the data as published by the office for each quarter of 1988.
- (d) As used in this section, "uncompensated care costs" means that amount calculated by applying an overall hospital cost-to-charge ratio, calculated by dividing gross operating expenses by gross inpatient and outpatient revenue, as reported quarterly to the office, to uncompensated charges.

(Amended by Stats. 1996, Ch. 1023, Sec. 489. Effective September 29, 1996.)

- 16921. Funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter shall be allocated and disbursed to county and noncounty hospitals which meet any of the following requirements:
- (a) Operate an emergency room pursuant to Section 1317 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (b) Adhere to the emergency care requirements of subdivision (e) of Section 1317 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (c) Treat county indigent patients.
- (d) Are childrens' hospitals for purposes of this part.
- (e) Are small and rural hospitals as defined in Section 124840 of the Health and Safety Code.

(Amended by Stats. 1996, Ch. 1023, Sec. 490. Effective September 29, 1996.)

- 16922. (a) In order to determine the allocation for each eligible hospital of the amount appropriated for the purposes of this chapter, the office shall do all of the following:
 - (1) Compute the total uncompensated care costs for each eligible hospital.
 - (2) Compute the total uncompensated care costs for all eligible hospitals.
 - (3) Divide each hospital's uncompensated care costs as computed in paragraph (1) by the total uncompensated care costs as computed in paragraph (2).
- (b) The result shall be multiplied by the total funds specified for hospital payments pursuant to Section 16921 to determine each hospital's payment for uncompensated care. That amount shall be allocated in one lump sum to each hospital by the Controller pursuant to subdivision (a).

(Amended by Stats. 1990, Ch. 50, Sec. 15. Effective April 18, 1990.)

16923. The office shall do all of the following:

- (a) Review and process the quarterly financial and utilization data report and calculate the distribution to be made within 30 days after October 2, 1989.
- (b) Make the calculations available to the Controller within 40 days after October 2, 1989.
- (c) Incorporate the quarterly financial and utilization data reports into the field audit function currently utilized by the office.
- (d) Develop procedures to recover funds determined to have been spent in a manner inconsistent with this chapter and Article 2 (commencing with Section 30121) of Chapter 2 of Part 13 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(Amended by Stats. 1990, Ch. 50, Sec. 15.5. Effective April 18, 1990.)

16924. The Controller shall distribute to hospitals the funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter within 60 days from the effective date of this chapter provided that the office has certified that the hospital is in compliance with this section.

(Added by Stats. 1989, Ch. 1331, Sec. 9. Effective October 2, 1989.)