

AN ACT  
RELATING TO HEALTH; CHANGING CERTAIN DEFINITIONS IN THE  
INDIGENT HOSPITAL AND COUNTY HEALTH CARE ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 27-5-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 234, Section 4, as amended by Laws 1999, Chapter 37, Section 1 and also by Laws 1999, Chapter 270, Section 4) is amended to read:

"27-5-4. DEFINITIONS. --As used in the Indigent Hospital and County Health Care Act:

A. "ambulance provider" or "ambulance service" means a specialized carrier based within the state authorized under provisions and subject to limitations as provided in individual carrier certificates issued by the public regulation commission to transport persons alive, dead or dying en route by means of ambulance service. The rates and charges established by public regulation commission tariff shall govern as to allowable cost. Also included are air ambulance services approved by the board. The air ambulance service charges shall be filed and approved pursuant to Subsection D of Section 27-5-6 NMSA 1978 and Section 27-5-11 NMSA 1978;

B. "board" means a county indigent hospital and county health care board;

C. "indigent patient" means a person to whom an

ambulance service, a hospital or a health care provider has provided medical care, ambulance transportation or health care services and who can normally support himself and his dependents on present income and liquid assets available to him but, taking into consideration this income and those assets and his requirement for other necessities of life for himself and his dependents, is unable to pay the cost of the ambulance transportation or medical care administered or both. If provided by resolution of a board, it shall not include any person whose annual income together with his spouse's annual income totals an amount that is fifty percent greater than the per capita personal income for New Mexico as shown for the most recent year available in the survey of current business published by the United States department of commerce. Every board that has a balance remaining in the fund at the end of a given fiscal year shall consider and may adopt at the first meeting of the succeeding fiscal year a resolution increasing the standard for indigency. The term "indigent patient" includes a minor who has received ambulance transportation or medical care or both and whose parent or the person having custody of that minor would qualify as an indigent patient if transported by ambulance or admitted to a hospital for care or treated by a health care provider or all three;

D. "hospital" means a general or limited hospital licensed by the department of health, whether nonprofit or

owned by a political subdivision, and may include by resolution of a board the following health facilities if licensed or, in the case of out-of-state hospitals, approved, by the department of health:

(1) for-profit hospitals;

(2) state-owned hospitals; or

(3) licensed out-of-state hospitals where treatment provided is necessary for the proper care of an indigent patient when that care is not available in an in-state hospital;

E. "cost" means all allowable ambulance transportation costs, medical care costs or costs of providing health care services, to the extent determined by resolution of a board, for an indigent patient. Allowable costs shall be determined in accordance with a uniform system of accounting and cost analysis as determined by regulation of a board, which includes cost of ancillary services but shall not include the cost of servicing long-term indebtedness of a hospital, health care provider or ambulance service;

F. "fund" means a county indigent hospital claims fund;

G. "medicaid eligible" means a person who is eligible for medical assistance from the department;

H. "county" means any county except a class A county with a county hospital operated and maintained

pursuant to a lease with a state educational institution named in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico;

I. "department" means the human services department;

J. "sole community provider hospital" means a hospital that is a sole community provider hospital under the provisions of the federal medicare guidelines established in 42 C.F.R. 412.92 pursuant to Title 18 of the federal Social Security Act;

K. "drug rehabilitation center" means an agency of local government, a state agency, a private nonprofit entity or combination thereof that operates drug abuse rehabilitation programs that meet the standards and requirements set by the department of health;

L. "alcohol rehabilitation center" means an agency of local government, a state agency, a private nonprofit entity or combination thereof that operates alcohol abuse rehabilitation programs that meet the standards set by the department of health;

M. "mental health center" means a not-for-profit center that provides outpatient mental health services that meet the standards set by the department of health;

N. "health care provider" means:

- (1) a nursing home;
- (2) an in-state home health agency;

(3) an in-state licensed hospice;

(4) a community-based health program operated by a political subdivision of the state or other nonprofit health organization that provides prenatal care delivered by New Mexico licensed, certified or registered health care practitioners;

(5) a community-based health program operated by a political subdivision of the state or other nonprofit health care organization that provides primary care delivered by New Mexico licensed, certified or registered health care practitioners;

(6) a drug rehabilitation center;

(7) an alcohol rehabilitation center;

(8) a mental health center; or

(9) a licensed medical doctor, osteopathic physician, dentist, optometrist or expanded practice nurse when providing services in a hospital or outpatient setting that are necessary for conditions that endanger the life of or threaten permanent disability to an indigent patient;

O. "health care services" means all treatment and services designed to promote improved health in the county indigent population, including primary care, prenatal care, dental care, provision of prescription drugs, preventive care or health outreach services, to the extent determined by resolution of the board;

P. "planning" means the development of a

countywide or multicounty health plan to improve and fund health services in the county based on the county's needs assessment and inventory of existing services and resources and that demonstrates coordination between the county and state and local health planning efforts; and

Q. "commission" means the New Mexico health policy commission. "\_\_\_\_\_  
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