



Children's Hospital Association of Texas
An Association for the Advancement of Children's Healthcare in Texas

PROTECT CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS

The Children's Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT) urges the Texas Legislature to update Medicaid inpatient rates for children's hospitals for the 2016-2017 biennium:

- In the aggregate, **57% of the patient days at children's hospitals are covered by Medicaid** (2013). The percent of days that are covered by Medicaid at CHAT member hospitals ranges from 51 to 78 percent.
- **No other class of hospitals is as reliant on Medicaid reimbursement;** the average number of Medicaid patient days for all other acute care hospitals in Texas is 19%.
- **Children's hospitals provide highly complex and specialized pediatric care.** Forty-four percent of the staffed beds at children's hospitals are intensive care (ICU) beds compared to 24% for all other acute care hospitals.
- **Children's hospitals are the pediatric safety net,** serving children transferred from other hospitals when it is beyond their capacity to provide the necessary care.
- **Children's hospitals serve children from all across Texas** and provided inpatient care to children from 241 of Texas' 254 counties in 2012. (About 5,000 children live in the other 13 counties.)
- **The acuity of cases at children's hospitals is twice that of patients at all other hospitals.**
- **Children's hospitals serve the youngest and most vulnerable patients;** two-thirds of the children served at children's hospitals are under age 10.
- **Children's hospitals play a vital role in training pediatricians, pediatric specialists and other health care professionals.**
- Children's hospitals are expanding facilities and services to be able to care for the fast growing child population in Texas.
- There are more than 20,000 full-time employees at children's hospitals in Texas.
- CHAT members are not-for-profit organizations committed to improving the health, safety and well-being of children in Texas.

Failure of Medicaid rates to cover the audited, actual allowable costs of serving Medicaid children will impair the mission of children's hospitals to provide the comprehensive array of pediatric services that any child in Texas could need, to advance health care through clinical research and quality improvement and to train the next generation of pediatricians and pediatric health care professionals.

For more information:

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