

Not-for-profit Hospital Legislative Priorities

Disproportionate Share Hospital Payment

- Seek to restore a permanent Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payment to help offset some of the losses due to TennCare and charity care.

TennCare and Charity Care

- Assess the true financial impact of TennCare, health care safety net measures and Cover Tennessee in terms of increased charity care and bad debt due to benefit limits, increased ER usage and community safety net impact.
- Monitor and provide input on discussions about uncompensated care and billing practices for self-pay and/or uninsured patients.
- Advocate for the development of accessible and affordable full-coverage health insurance programs for uninsured Tennesseans.

Tax Exemptions

- Oppose any legislation that threatens the tax-exempt status of not-for-profit hospitals.
- Monitor legislative proposals that would impose new taxes on health care providers.

Fair Marketplace

- Oppose any attempts to sunset, repeal or significantly alter the Certificate of Need process.
- Monitor impact on not-for-profit hospitals due to loosening of rules around physician office-based surgery, physician self-referral and physician practice acquisition of diagnostic equipment and resulting impact on hospital/physician relationships.
- Provide input into the development of the state health plan.

Community Benefit and Mission

- Promote the value of retaining not-for-profit hospital ownership and support legislative measures to protect charitable assets by establishing criteria and procedures that must be followed when a not-for-profit hospital is converted to an investor-owned hospital.
- Advocate that not-for-profit hospitals are meeting local health care needs for the poor and underserved through their community benefit programs.

Medical Liability Reform

- Work collaboratively with the Coalition for Medical Liability Reform to support legislation to enact broad tort medical liability reform that address caps on non-economic damages, frivolous lawsuits, plaintiff's attorney fees and other issues.

Health Care Policy and Regulation

- Provide support for measures that address and improve patient safety and quality of care in health care facilities.
- Support measures that address workforce needs in hospitals by developing and funding initiatives to educate, train and employ health care professionals.

Employment of Hospital-based Physicians

- Support efforts to educate legislators about the recruitment and retention issues related to the need to broaden the ability of hospitals to employ hospital-based physicians.

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