CHAPTER 256B

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY PERSONS

256B.02 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1987 c 363 s 14]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1987 c 363 s 14]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1987 c 363 s 14]

[For text of subds 4 to 6, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 7. "Vendor of medical care" means any person or persons furnishing, within the scope of the vendor's respective license, any or all of the following goods or services: medical, surgical, hospital, optical, visual, dental and nursing services; drugs and medical supplies; appliances; laboratory, diagnostic, and therapeutic services; nursing home and convalescent care; screening and health assessment services provided by public health nurses; health care services provided at the residence of the patient if the services are performed by a public health nurse and the nurse indicates in a statement submitted under oath that the services were actually provided; and such other medical services or supplies provided or prescribed by persons authorized by state law to give such services and supplies. The term includes, but is not limited to, directors and officers of corporations or members of partnerships who, either individually or jointly with another or others, have the legal control, supervision, or responsibility of submitting claims for reimbursement to the medical assistance program. The term only includes directors and officers of corporations who personally receive a portion of the distributed assets upon liquidation or dissolution, and their liability is limited to the portion of the claim that bears the same proportion to the total claim as their share of the distributed assets bears to the total distributed assets.

Subd. 8. **Medical assistance; medical care.** "Medical assistance" or "medical care" means payment of part or all of the cost of the following care and services for eligible individuals whose income and resources are insufficient to meet all of this cost:

(1) Inpatient hospital services. A second medical opinion is required prior to reimbursement for elective surgeries requiring a second opinion. The commissioner shall publish in the State Register a list of elective surgeries that require a second medical opinion prior to reimbursement, and the criteria and standards for deciding whether an elective surgery should require a second medical opinion. The list and the criteria and standards are not subject to the requirements of sections 14.01 to 14.69. The commissioner's decision whether a second medical opinion is required, made in accordance with rules governing that decision, is not subject to administrative appeal;

(2) Skilled nursing home services and services of intermediate care facilities,

including training and habilitation services, as defined in section 252.41, subdivision 3, for persons with mental retardation or related conditions who are residing in intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation or related conditions. Medical assistance must not be used to pay the costs of nursing care provided to a patient in a swing bed as defined in section 144.562;

(3) Physicians' services;

(4) Outpatient hospital or nonprofit community health clinic services or physician-directed clinic services. The physician-directed clinic staff shall include at least two physicians, one of whom is on the premises whenever the clinic is open, and all services shall be provided under the direct supervision of the physician who is on the premises. Hospital outpatient departments are subject to the same limitations and reimbursements as other enrolled vendors for all services, except initial triage, emergency services, and services not provided or immediately available in clinics, physicians' offices, or by other enrolled providers. A second medical opinion is required before reimbursement for elective surgeries requiring a second opinion. The commissioner shall publish in the State Register a list of elective surgeries that require a second medical opinion before reimbursement and the criteria and standards for deciding whether an elective surgery should require a second surgical opinion. The list and the criteria and standards are not subject to the requirements of sections 14.01 to 14.69. The commissioner's decision whether a second medical opinion is required, made in accordance with rules governing that decision, is not subject to administrative appeal. "Emergency services" means those medical services means those medical services required for the immediate diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions that, if not immediately diagnosed and treated, could lead to serious physical or mental disability or death or are necessary to alleviate severe pain. Neither the hospital, its employees, nor any physician or dentist, shall be liable in any action arising out of a determination not to render emergency services or care if reasonable care is exercised in determining the condition of the person, or in determining the appropriateness of the facilities, or the qualifications and availability of personnel to render these services consistent with this section;

(5) Community mental health center services, as defined in rules adopted by the commissioner pursuant to section 256B.04, subdivision 2, and provided by a community mental health center as defined in section 245.62, subdivision 2;

(6) Home health care services;

(7) Private duty nursing services;

(8) Physical therapy and related services;

(9) Dental services, excluding cast metal restorations;

(10) Laboratory and X-ray services;

(11) The following if prescribed by a licensed practitioner: drugs, eyeglasses, dentures, and prosthetic devices. The commissioner shall designate a formulary committee which shall advise the commissioner on the names of drugs for which payment shall be made, recommend a system for reimbursing providers on a set fee or charge basis rather than the present system, and develop methods encouraging use of generic drugs when they are less expensive and equally effective as trademark drugs. The commissioner shall appoint the formulary committee members no later than 30 days following July 1, 1981. The formulary committee shall consist of nine members, four of whom shall be physicians who are not employed by the department of human services, and a majority of whose practice is for persons paying privately or through health insurance, three of whom shall be pharmacists who are not employed by the department of human services, and a majority of whose practice is for persons paying privately or through health insurance, a consumer representative, and a nursing home representative. Committee members shall serve two-year terms and shall serve without compensation. The commissioner may establish a drug formulary. Its establishment and publication shall not be subject to the requirements of the administrative procedure act, but the formulary committee shall review and comment on the formulary

contents. Prior authorization may be required by the commissioner, with the consent of the drug formulary committee, before certain formulary drugs are eligible for payment. The formulary shall not include: drugs or products for which there is no federal funding; over-the-counter drugs, except for antacids, acetaminophen, family planning products, aspirin, insulin, prenatal vitamins, and vitamins for children under the age of seven; or any other over-the-counter drug identified by the commissioner, in consultation with the appropriate professional consultants under contract with or employed by the state agency, as necessary, appropriate and cost effective for the treatment of certain specified chronic diseases, conditions or disorders, and this determination shall not be subject to the requirements of chapter 14, the administrative procedure act; nutritional products, except for those products needed for treatment of phenylketonuria, hyperlysinemia, maple syrup urine disease, a combined allergy to human milk, cow milk, and soy formula, or any other childhood or adult diseases, conditions, or disorders identified by the commissioner as requiring a similarly necessary nutritional product; anorectics; and drugs for which medical value has not been established. Separate payment shall not be made for nutritional products for residents of long-term care facilities; payment for dietary requirements is a component of the per diem rate paid to these facilities. Payment to drug vendors shall not be modified before the formulary is established except that the commissioner shall not permit payment for any drugs which may not by law be included in the formulary, and the commissioner's determination shall not be subject to chapter 14, the administrative procedure act. The commissioner shall publish conditions for prohibiting payment for specific drugs after considering the formulary committee's recommendations.

The basis for determining the amount of payment shall be the lower of the actual acquisition costs of the drugs plus a fixed dispensing fee established by the commissioner, the maximum allowable cost set by the federal government or by the commissioner plus the fixed dispensing fee or the usual and customary price charged to the public. Actual acquisition cost includes quantity and other special discounts except time and cash discounts. The actual acquisition cost of a drug may be estimated by the commissioner. The maximum allowable cost of a multisource drug may be set by the commissioner and it shall be comparable to, but no higher than, the maximum amount paid by other third party payors in this state who have maximum allowable cost programs. Establishment of the amount of payment for drugs shall not be subject to the requirements of the administrative procedure act. An additional dispensing fee of $.30 may be added to the dispensing fee paid to pharmacists for prescriptions dispensed to residents of long-term care facilities when a unit dose blister card system, approved by the department, is used. Under this type of dispensing system, the pharmacist must dispense a 30-day supply of drug. The National Drug Code (NDC) from the drug container used to fill the blister card must be identified on the claim to the department. The unit dose blister card containing the drug must meet the packaging standards set forth in Minnesota Rules, part 6800.2700, that govern the return of unused drugs to the pharmacy for reuse. The pharmacy provider will be required to credit the department for the actual acquisition cost of all unused drugs that are eligible for reuse. Whenever a generically equivalent product is available, payment shall be on the basis of the actual acquisition cost of the generic drug, unless the prescriber specifically indicates "dispense as written" on the prescription as required by section 151.21, subdivision 2.

Notwithstanding the above provisions, implementation of any change in the fixed dispensing fee which has not been subject to the administrative procedure act shall be limited to not more than 180 days, unless, during that time, the commissioner shall have initiated rulemaking through the administrative procedure act;

(12) Diagnostic, screening, and preventive services. "Preventive services" include services related to pregnancy, including services for those conditions which may complicate a pregnancy and which may be available to a pregnant woman determined to be at risk of poor pregnancy outcome. Preventive services available to a woman at risk of poor pregnancy outcome may differ in an amount, duration, or scope from those available to other individuals eligible for medical assistance;

(13) Health care prepayment plan premiums and insurance premiums if paid directly to a vendor and supplementary medical insurance benefits under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act. For purposes of obtaining Medicare part B, expenditures may be made even if federal funding is not available;

(14) Abortion services, but only if one of the following conditions is met:

(a) The abortion is a medical necessity. "Medical necessity" means (1) the signed written statement of two physicians indicating the abortion is medically necessary to prevent the death of the mother, and (2) the patient has given her consent to the abortion in writing unless the patient is physically or legally incapable of providing informed consent to the procedure, in which case consent will be given as otherwise provided by law;

(b) The pregnancy is the result of criminal sexual conduct as defined in section 609.342, clauses (c), (d), (e)(i), and (f), and the incident is reported within 48 hours after the incident occurs to a valid law enforcement agency for investigation, unless the victim is physically unable to report the criminal sexual conduct, in which case the report shall be made within 48 hours after the victim becomes physically able to report the criminal sexual conduct; or

(c) The pregnancy is the result of incest, but only if the incident and relative are reported to a valid law enforcement agency for investigation prior to the abortion;

(15) Transportation costs incurred solely for obtaining emergency medical care or transportation costs incurred by nonambulatory persons in obtaining emergency or nonemergency medical care when paid directly to an ambulance company, common carrier, or other recognized providers of transportation services. For the purpose of this clause, a person who is incapable of transport by taxicab or bus shall be considered to be nonambulatory;

(16) To the extent authorized by rule of the state agency, costs of bus or taxicab transportation incurred by any ambulatory eligible person for obtaining nonemergency medical care;

(17) Personal care assistant services provided by an individual, not a relative, who is qualified to provide the services, where the services are prescribed by a physician in accordance with a plan of treatment and are supervised by a registered nurse. Payments to personal care assistants shall be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of living or of providing services by the average annual adjustment granted to vendors such as nursing homes and home health agencies;

(18) To the extent authorized by rule of the state agency, case management services to persons with serious and persistent mental illness;

(19) To the extent authorized by rule of the state agency, case management services to persons with brain injuries;

(20) Hospice care services under Public Law Number 99-272, section 9505, to the extent authorized by rule; and

(21) Any other medical or remedial care licensed and recognized under state law unless otherwise prohibited by law, except licensed chemical dependency treatment programs or primary treatment or extended care treatment units in hospitals that are covered under Laws 1986, chapter 394, sections 8 to 20. The commissioner shall include chemical dependency services in the state medical assistance plan for federal reporting purposes, but payment must be made under Laws 1986, chapter 394, sections 8 to 20. The commissioner shall publish in the State Register a list of elective surgeries that require a second medical opinion before medical assistance reimbursement, and the criteria and standards for deciding whether an elective surgery should require a second medical opinion. The list and criteria and standards are not subject to the requirements of sections 14.01 to 14.69. The commissioner shall publish in the State Register a list of health services that require prior authorization, as well as the criteria and standards used to select health services on the list. The list and the criteria and standards used to formulate it are not subject to the requirements of sections 14.01 to 14.69. The commissioner's decision whether prior authorization is required for a

health service or a second medical opinion is required for an elective surgery is not subject to administrative appeal.

[For text of subds 9 to 11, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 12. "Third party payer" means a person, entity, or agency or government program that has a probable obligation to pay all or part of the costs of a medical assistance recipient's health services.

Subd. 13. **Prepaid health plan.** "Prepaid health plan" means a vendor who receives a capitation payment and assumes financial risk for the provision of medical assistance services under a contract with the commissioner.

History: *1987 c 370 art 1 s 3; art 2 s 4; 1987 c 374 s 1; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 73,74; art 5 s 16*

NOTE: The amendment to subdivision 8 by Laws 1987, chapter 374, section 1, is effective July 1, 1988. See Laws 1987, chapter 374, section 2.

256B.03 PAYMENTS TO VENDORS.

Subdivision 1. **General limit.** All payments for medical assistance hereunder must be made to the vendor. The maximum payment for new vendors enrolled in the medical assistance program after the base year shall be determined from the average usual and customary charge of the same vendor type enrolled in the base year.

Subd. 2. **Limit on annual increase to long-term care providers.** Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 256B.421 to 256B.48, Laws 1981, chapter 360, article II, section 2, or any other provision of chapter 360, and rules promulgated under those sections, rates paid to a skilled nursing facility or an intermediate care facility, including boarding care facilities and supervised living facilities, except state owned and operated facilities, for rate years beginning during the biennium ending June 30, 1983, shall not exceed by more than ten percent the final rate allowed to the facility for the preceding rate year. For purposes of this section, "final rate" means the rate established after any adjustment by the commissioner, including but not limited to adjustments resulting from cost report reviews, field audits, and computations of unimplemented cost changes. Regardless of any rate appeal, the rate established shall be the rate paid and shall remain in effect until final resolution of the appeal, subsequent desk or field audit adjustment, notwithstanding any provision of law or rule to the contrary.

The commissioner shall not increase the percentage for investment allowances.

History: *1987 c 384 art 2 s 63; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 75*

256B.031 PREPAID HEALTH PLANS.

Subdivision 1. **Contracts.** The commissioner may contract with health insurers licensed and operating under chapters 60A and 62A, nonprofit health service plans licensed and operating under chapter 62C, health maintenance organizations licensed and operating under chapter 62D, and vendors of medical care and organizations participating in prepaid programs under section 256D.03, subdivision 4, clause (b), to provide medical services to medical assistance recipients. Notwithstanding any other law, health insurers may enter into contracts with the commissioner under this section. As a condition of the contract, health insurers and health service plan corporations must agree to comply with the requirements of section 62D.04, subdivision 1, clauses (a), (b), (c), (d), and (f), and provide a complaint procedure that satisfies the requirements of section 62D.11. Nothing in this section permits health insurers not licensed as health maintenance organizations under chapter 62D to offer a prepaid health plan as defined in section 256B.02, subdivision 12, to persons other than those receiving medical assistance or general assistance medical care under this section. Contracts between the commissioner and a prepaid health plan are exempt from the set-aside and preference provisions of section 16B.19, subdivisions 5 and 6. Contracts must specify the services that are included in the per capita rate. Contracts must specify those services that are to be eligible for risk sharing between the prepaid health plan and the

state. Contracts must also state that payment must be made within 60 days after the month of coverage.

Subd. 2. **Services.** State contracts for these services must assure recipients of at least the comprehensive health services defined in section 256B.02, subdivision 8, except services defined in section 256B.02, subdivision 8, paragraphs (2), (5), (16), and (17), and except services defined as chemical dependency services and mental health services.

Contracts under this section must include provision for assessing pregnant women to determine their risk of poor pregnancy outcome. Contracts must also include provision for treatment of women found to be at risk of poor pregnancy outcome.

Subd. 3. **Information required.** Prepaid health plans under contract must provide information to the commissioner according to the contract specifications. The information must include, at a minimum, the number of people receiving services, the number of encounters, the types of services received, evidence of an operating quality assurance program, and information about the use of and actual recoveries of available third-party resources. A plan under contract to provide services in a county must provide the county agency with the most current listing of the health care providers whose services are covered by the plan.

Subd. 4. **Prepaid health plan rates.** For payments made during calendar year 1988, the monthly maximum allowable rate established by the commissioner of human services for payment to prepaid health plans must not exceed 90 percent of the projected average monthly per capita fee-for-service medical assistance costs for state fiscal year 1988 for recipients of aid to families with dependent children. The base year for projecting the average monthly per capita fee-for-service medical assistance costs is state fiscal year 1986. A maximum allowable per capita rate must be established collectively for Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, St. Louis, Scott, and Washington counties. A separate maximum allowable per capita rate must be established collectively for all other counties. The maximum allowable per capita rate may be adjusted to reflect utilization differences among eligible classes of recipients. For payments made during calendar year 1989, the maximum allowable rate must be calculated in the same way as 1988 rates, except the base year is state fiscal year 1987. For payments made during calendar year 1990 and later years, the commissioner shall contract with an independent actuary to establish prepayment rates. Rates established for prepaid health plans must be based on the services that the prepaid health plan provides under contract with the commissioner.

Subd. 5. **Free choice limited.** (a) The commissioner may require recipients of aid to families with dependent children, except those recipients who are refugees and whose health services are reimbursed 100 percent by the federal government for the first 31 months after entry into the United States, to enroll in a prepaid health plan and receive services from or through the prepaid health plan. Enrollment in a prepaid health plan is mandatory only when recipients have a choice of at least two prepaid health plans.

(b) Recipients who become eligible on or after December 1, 1987, must choose a health plan within 30 days of the date eligibility is determined. At the time of application, the local agency shall ask the recipient whether the recipient has a primary health care provider. If the recipient has not chosen a health plan within 30 days but has provided the local agency with the name of a a primary health care provider, the local agency shall determine whether the provider participates in a prepaid health plan available to the recipient and, if so, the local agency shall select that plan on the recipient's behalf. If the recipient has not provided the name of a primary health care provider who participates in an available prepaid health plan, commissioner shall randomly assign the recipient to a health plan.

(c) Recipients who are eligible on November 30, 1987, must choose a prepaid health plan by January 15, 1988. If possible, the local agency shall ask whether the recipient has a primary health care provider and the procedures under paragraph (b) shall apply. If a recipient does not choose a prepaid health plan by this date, the commissioner shall randomly assign the recipient to a health plan.

(d) Each recipient must be enrolled in the health plan for a minimum of six months following the effective date of enrollment, except that the recipient may change health plans once within the first 60 days after initial enrollment. The commissioner shall request a waiver from the federal Health Care Financing Administration to extend the minimum period to 12 months.

(e) Women who are receiving medical assistance due to pregnancy and later become eligible for aid to families with dependent children are not required to choose a prepaid health plan until 60 days postpartum. An infant born as a result of that pregnancy must be enrolled in a prepaid health plan at the same time as the mother.

(f) If third-party coverage is available to a recipient through enrollment in a prepaid health plan through employment, through coverage by the former spouse, or if a duty of support has been imposed by law, order, decree, or judgment of a court under section 518.551, the obligee or recipient shall participate in the prepaid health plan in which the obligee has enrolled provided that the commissioner has contracted with the plan.

Subd. 6. **Ombudsman.** The commissioner shall designate an ombudsman to advocate for persons required to enroll in prepaid health plans under this section. The ombudsman shall advocate for recipients enrolled in prepaid health plans through complaint and appeal procedures and ensure that necessary medical services are provided either by the prepaid health plan directly or by referral to appropriate social services. At the time of enrollment in a prepaid health plan, the local agency shall inform recipients about the ombudsman program and their right to a resolution of a complaint by the prepaid health plan if they experience a problem with the plan or its providers.

Subd. 7. **Services pending appeal.** If the recipient appeals in writing to the state agency on or before the tenth day after the decision of the prepaid health plan to reduce, suspend, or terminate services which the recipient had been receiving, and the treating physician or another plan physician orders the services to be continued at the previous level, the prepaid health plan must continue to provide services at a level equal to the level ordered by the plan's physician until the state agency renders its decision.

Subd. 8. **Case management.** The commissioner shall prepare a report to the legislature by January 1988, that describes the issues involved in successfully implementing a case management system in counties where the commissioner has fewer than two prepaid health plans under contract to provide health care services to eligible classes of recipients. In the report the commissioner shall address which health care providers could be case managers, the responsibilities of the case manager, the assumption of risk by the case manager, the services to be provided either directly or by referral, reimbursement concerns, federal waivers that may be required, and other issues that may affect the quality and cost of care under such a system.

Subd. 9. **Prepayment coordinator.** The local agency shall designate a prepayment coordinator to assist the state agency in implementing this section, section 256B.69, and section 256D.03, subdivision 4. Assistance must include educating recipients about available health care options, enrolling recipients under subdivision 5, providing necessary eligibility and enrollment information to health plans and the state agency, and coordinating complaints and appeals with the ombudsman established in subdivision 6.

Subd. 10. **Impact on public or teaching hospitals and community clinics.** (a) Before implementing prepaid programs in counties with a county operated or affiliated public teaching hospital or a hospital or clinic operated by the University of Minnesota, the commissioner shall consider the risks the prepaid program creates for the hospital and allow the county or hospital the opportunity to participate in the program, provided the terms of participation in the program are competitive with the terms of other participants.

(b) Prepaid health plans serving counties with a nonprofit community clinic or community health services agency must contract with the clinic or agency to provide services to clients who choose to receive services from the clinic or agency, if the clinic

or agency agrees to payment rates that are competitive with rates paid to other health plan providers for the same or similar services.

History: *1987 c 403 art 2 s 76*

256B.04 DUTIES OF STATE AGENCY.

[For text of subds 1 to 13, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 14. **Competitive bidding.** The commissioner shall utilize volume purchase through competitive bidding under the provisions of chapter 16, to provide the following items:

(1) eyeglasses;

(2) oxygen. The commissioner shall provide for oxygen needed in an emergency situation on a short-term basis, until the vendor can obtain the necessary supply from the contract dealer;

(3) hearing aids and supplies; and

(4) durable medical equipment, including but not limited to:

(a) hospital beds;

(b) commodes;

(c) glide-about chairs;

(d) patient lift apparatus;

(e) wheelchairs and accessories;

(f) oxygen administration equipment;

(g) respiratory therapy equipment;

(h) electronic diagnostic, therapeutic and life support systems;

(5) wheelchair transportation services; and

(6) drugs.

Subd. 15. **Utilization review.** (1) Establish on a statewide basis a new program to safeguard against unnecessary or inappropriate use of medical assistance services, against excess payments, against unnecessary or inappropriate hospital admissions or lengths of stay, and against underutilization of services in prepaid health plans, long-term care facilities or any health care delivery system subject to fixed rate reimbursement. In implementing the program, the state agency shall utilize both prepayment and postpayment review systems to determine if utilization is reasonable and necessary. The determination of whether services are reasonable and necessary shall be made by the commissioner in consultation with a professional services advisory group appointed by the commissioner. An aggrieved party may appeal the commissioner's determination pursuant to the contested case procedures of chapter 14.

(2) Contracts entered into for purposes of meeting the requirements of this subdivision shall not be subject to the set-aside provisions of chapter 16B.

(3) A recipient aggrieved by the commissioner's termination of services or denial of future services may appeal pursuant to section 256.045. A vendor aggrieved by the commissioner's determination that services provided were not reasonable or necessary may appeal pursuant to the contested case procedures of chapter 14. To appeal, the vendor shall notify the commissioner in writing within 30 days of receiving the commissioner's notice. The appeal request shall specify each disputed item, the reason for the dispute, an estimate of the dollar amount involved for each disputed item, the computation that the vendor believes is correct, the authority in statute or rule upon which the vendor relies for each disputed item, the name and address of the person or firm with whom contacts may be made regarding the appeal, and other information required by the commissioner.

Subd. 16. **Personal care assistants.** (a) The commissioner shall adopt permanent rules to implement, administer, and operate the personal care assistant services program. The rules must incorporate the standards and requirements adopted by the

commissioner of health under section 144A.45 which are applicable to the personal care assistant program. Limits on the extent of personal care assistant services that may be provided to an individual must be based on the cost-effectiveness of the services in relation to the costs of inpatient hospital care, nursing home care, and other available types of care. The rules must provide, at a minimum:

(1) that agencies be selected to contract with or employ and train staff to provide and supervise the provision of personal care services;

(2) that agencies employ or contract with a qualified applicant that a qualified recipient proposes to the agency as the recipient's choice of assistant;

(3) that agencies bill the medical assistance program for a personal care service by a personal care assistant and visits by the registered nurse supervising the personal care assistant;

(4) that agencies establish a grievance mechanism; and

(5) that agencies have a quality assurance program.

(b) For personal care assistants under contract with an agency under paragraph (a), the provision of training and supervision by the agency does not create an employment relationship.

History: *1987 c 378 s 15; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 77,78*

256B.042 THIRD PARTY LIABILITY.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 2. The state agency may perfect and enforce its lien by following the procedures set forth in sections 514.69, 514.70 and 514.71, and its verified lien statement shall be filed with the appropriate court administrator in the county of financial responsibility. The verified lien statement shall contain the following: the name and address of the person to whom medical care was furnished, the date of injury, the name and address of the vendor or vendors furnishing medical care, the dates of the service, the amount claimed to be due for the care, and, to the best of the state agency's knowledge, the names and addresses of all persons, firms, or corporations claimed to be liable for damages arising from the injuries. This section shall not affect the priority of any attorney's lien. The state agency is not subject to any limitations period referred to in section 514.69 or 514.71 and has one year from the date notice is received by it under subdivision 4 to file its verified lien statement. The state agency may commence an action to enforce the lien within one year of (1) the date the notice is received or (2) the date the recipient's cause of action is concluded by judgment, award, settlement, or otherwise, whichever is later.

Subd. 3. The attorney general, or the appropriate county attorney acting at the direction of the attorney general, shall represent the state agency to enforce the lien created under this section or, if no action has been brought, may initiate and prosecute an independent action on behalf of the state agency against a person, firm, or corporation that may be liable to the person to whom the care was furnished.

Subd. 4. **Notice.** The state agency must be given notice of monetary claims against a person, firm, or corporation that may be liable to pay part or all of the cost of medical care when the state agency has paid or become liable for the cost of that care. Notice must be given as follows:

(a) Applicants for medical assistance shall notify the state or local agency of any possible claims when they submit the application. Recipients of medical assistance shall notify the state or local agency of any possible claims when those claims arise.

(b) A person providing medical care services to a recipient of medical assistance shall notify the state agency when the person has reason to believe that a third party may be liable for payment of the cost of medical care.

(c) A person who is a party to a claim upon which the state agency may be entitled to a lien under this section shall notify the state agency of its potential lien claim before filing a claim, commencing an action, or negotiating a settlement.

Notice given to the local agency is not sufficient to meet the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c).

Subd. 5. **Costs deducted.** Upon any judgment, award, or settlement of a cause of action, or any part of it, upon which the state agency has filed its lien, including compensation for liquidated, unliquidated, or other damages, reasonable costs of collection, including attorney fees, must be deducted first. The full amount of medical assistance paid to or on behalf of the person as a result of the injury must be deducted next, and paid to the state agency. The rest must be paid to the medical assistance recipient or other plaintiff. The plaintiff, however, must receive at least one-third of the net recovery after attorney fees and other collection costs.

History: *1987 c 370 art 2 s 5-8*

256B.05 ADMINISTRATION BY COUNTY AGENCIES.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1987 c 403 art 2 s 164]

256B.06 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

Subdivision 1. Medical assistance may be paid for any person:

(1) who is a child eligible for or receiving adoption assistance payments under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 670 to 676 under Minnesota Statutes, section 259.40 or 259.431; or

(2) who is a child eligible for or receiving foster care maintenance payments under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 670 to 676; or

(3) who is eligible for or receiving public assistance under the aid to families with dependent children program, the Minnesota supplemental aid program, except for those persons eligible for Minnesota supplemental aid because the local agency waived excess assets under section 256D.37, subdivision 2; or

(4) who is a pregnant woman, as certified in writing by a physician or nurse midwife, and who (a) meets the other eligibility criteria of this section, and (b) would be categorically eligible for assistance under the aid to families with dependent children program if the child had been born and was living with the woman. For purposes of this section, a woman is considered pregnant for 60 days postpartum; or

(5) who is a pregnant woman, as certified in writing by a physician or nurse midwife, who meets the other eligibility criteria of this section and whose unborn child would be eligible as a needy child under clause (8) if born and living with the woman. For purposes of this section, a woman is considered pregnant for 60 days postpartum; or

(6) who meets the categorical eligibility requirements of the supplemental security income program and the other eligibility requirements of this section; or

(7) who, except for the amount of income or assets, would qualify for supplemental security income for the aged, blind and disabled, or aid to families with dependent children, and who meets the other eligibility requirements of this section. However, in the case of families and children who meet the categorical eligibility requirements for aid to families with dependent children, the methodology for calculating assets shall be as specified in section 256.73, subdivision 2, and the methodology for calculating deductions from earnings for child care and work expenses shall be as specified in section 256.74, subdivision 1; or

(8) who is under 21 years of age and in need of medical care that neither the person nor the person's relatives responsible under sections 256B.01 to 256B.26 are financially able to provide; or

(9) who is an infant less than one year of age born on or after October 1, 1984, whose mother was eligible at the time of birth and who remains in the mother's

household. Eligibility under this clause is concurrent with the mother's and does not depend on the father's income except as the income affects the mother's eligibility; or

(10) who is residing in a hospital for treatment of mental disease or tuberculosis and is 65 years of age or older and without means sufficient to pay the per capita hospital charge; and

(11) who resides in Minnesota, or, if absent from the state, is deemed to be a resident of Minnesota in accordance with the rules of the state agency; and

(12) who alone, or together with the person's spouse, does not own real property other than the homestead. For the purposes of this section, "homestead" means the house owned and occupied by the applicant or recipient as a primary place of residence, together with the contiguous land upon which it is situated. The homestead shall continue to be excluded for persons residing in a long-term care facility if it is used as a primary residence by the spouse, minor child, or disabled child of any age. The homestead is also excluded for the first six calendar months of the person's stay in the long-term care facility. The homestead must be reduced to an amount within limits or excluded on another basis if the person remains in the long-term care facility for a period longer than six months. Real estate not used as a home may not be retained unless the property is not salable, the equity is $6,000 or less and the income produced by the property is at least six percent of the equity, or the excess real property is exempted for a period of nine months if there is a good faith effort to sell the property and a legally binding agreement is signed to repay the amount of assistance issued during that nine months; and

(13) who individually does not own more than $3,000 in cash or liquid assets, or if a member of a household with two family members (husband and wife, or parent and child), does not own more than $6,000 in cash or liquid assets, plus $200 for each additional legal dependent. In addition to these maximum amounts, an eligible individual or family may accrue interest on these amounts, but they must be reduced to the maximum at the time of an eligibility redetermination. For residents of long-term care facilities, the accumulation of the clothing and personal needs allowance pursuant to section 256B.35 must also be reduced to the maximum at the time of the eligibility redetermination. Cash and liquid assets may include a prepaid funeral contract and insurance policies with cash surrender value. The value of the following shall not be included:

(a) the homestead, (b) household goods and furniture in use in the home, (c) wearing apparel, (d) personal property used as a regular abode by the applicant or recipient, (e) a lot in a burial plot for each member of the household, (f) personal jewelry acquired more than 24 months immediately prior to the period of medical assistance eligibility and personal jewelry acquired within 24 months immediately prior to the period of medical assistance eligibility and not purchased with assets of the applicant or recipient, (g) capital and operating assets of a trade or business that the local agency determines are necessary to the person's ability to earn an income, (h) for a period of six months, insurance settlements to repair or replace damaged, destroyed, or stolen property, (i) one motor vehicle that is licensed pursuant to chapter 168 and defined as: (1) passenger automobile, (2) station wagon, (3) motorcycle, (4) motorized bicycle or (5) truck of the weight found in categories A to E, of section 168.013, subdivision 1e, and that is used primarily for the person's benefit, and (j) other items which may be required by federal law or statute. To be excluded, the vehicle must have a market value of less than $4,500; be necessary to obtain medically necessary health services; be necessary for employment; be modified for operation by or transportation of a handicapped person; or be necessary to perform essential daily tasks because of climate, terrain, distance, or similar factors. The equity value of other motor vehicles is counted against the cash or liquid asset limit; and

(14) who has or anticipates receiving a semiannual income not in excess of 115 percent of the income standards by family size used in the aid to families with dependent children program, except that families and children may have an income up to 133-1/3 percent of the AFDC income standard. Notwithstanding any laws or rules

to the contrary, in computing income to determine eligibility of persons who are not residents of long-term care facilities, the commissioner shall disregard increases in income as required by Public Law Numbers 94-566, section 503; 99-272; and 99-509; and

(15) who has monthly expenses for medical care that are more than the amount of the person's excess income, computed on a monthly basis, in which case eligibility may be established and medical assistance payments may be made to cover the monthly unmet medical need or who is a pregnant woman who meets the requirements of clauses (1) to (8) except that her anticipated income is in excess of the income standards by family size used in the aid to families with dependent children program, but is equal to or less than 133-1/3 percent of that income standard. Eligibility for a pregnant woman with respect to this clause shall be without regard to the asset standards specified in clauses (12) and (13). For persons who reside in licensed nursing homes, regional treatment centers, or medical institutions, the income over and above that required in section 256B.35 for personal needs allowance is to be applied to the cost of institutional care. In addition, income may be retained by an institutionalized person (a) to support dependents in the amount that, together with the income of the spouse and child under age 18, would provide net income equal to the medical assistance standard for the family size of the dependents excluding the person residing in the facility; or (b) for a period of up to three calendar months, in an amount equal to the medical assistance standard for a family size of one if the person was not living together with a spouse or child under age 21 at the time the person entered a long-term care facility, if the person has expenses of maintaining a residence in the community, and if a physician certifies that the person is expected to reside in the long-term care facility on a short-term basis. For purposes of this section, persons are determined to be residing in licensed nursing homes, regional treatment centers, or medical institutions if the persons are expected to remain for a period expected to last longer than three months. The commissioner of human services may establish a schedule of contributions to be made by the spouse of a nursing home resident to the cost of care; and

(16) who has applied or agrees to apply all proceeds received or receivable by the person or the person's spouse from any third person liable for the costs of medical care for the person, the spouse, and children. The state agency shall require from any applicant or recipient of medical assistance the assignment of any rights to medical support and third party payments. Persons must cooperate with the state in establishing paternity and obtaining third party payments. By signing an application for medical assistance, a person assigns to the department of human services all rights the person may have to medical support or payments for medical expenses from any other person or entity on their own or their dependent's behalf and agrees to cooperate with the state in establishing paternity and obtaining third party payments. Any rights or amounts so assigned shall be applied against the cost of medical care paid for under this chapter. Any assignment takes effect upon the determination that the applicant is eligible for medical assistance and up to three months prior to the date of application if the applicant is determined eligible for and receives medical assistance benefits. The application must contain a statement explaining this assignment. Any assignment shall not be effective as to benefits paid or provided under automobile accident coverage and private health care coverage prior to notification of the assignment by the person or organization providing the benefits; and

(17) eligibility is available for the month of application and for three months prior to application if the person was eligible in those prior months. A redetermination of eligibility must occur every 12 months.

[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 4. **Citizenship requirements.** Eligibility for medical assistance is limited to citizens of the United States and aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence or otherwise permanently residing in the United States under the color of law. Payment shall also be made for care and services that are furnished to an alien who otherwise

meets the eligibility requirements of this section if such care and services are necessary for the treatment of an emergency medical condition. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "emergency medical condition" means a medical condition, including labor and delivery, that if not immediately treated could cause a person physical or mental disability, continuation of severe pain, or death.

History: *1987 c 403 art 2 s 79,80*

256B.064 INELIGIBLE PROVIDER.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 1a. **Grounds for monetary recovery and sanctions against vendors.** The commissioner may seek monetary recovery and impose sanctions against vendors of medical care for any of the following: fraud, theft, or abuse in connection with the provision of medical care to recipients of public assistance; a pattern of presentment of false or duplicate claims or claims for services not medically necessary; a pattern of making false statements of material facts for the purpose of obtaining greater compensation than that to which the vendor is legally entitled; suspension or termination as a Medicare vendor; and refusal to grant the state agency access during regular business hours to examine all records necessary to disclose the extent of services provided to program recipients. The determination of services not medically necessary shall be made by the commissioner in consultation with a peer advisory committee appointed by the commissioner on the recommendation of appropriate professional organizations.

[For text of subd 1b, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 1c. The commissioner may obtain monetary recovery for the conduct described in subdivision 1a by the following methods: assessing and recovering money erroneously paid and debiting from future payments any money erroneously paid, except that patterns need not be proven as a precondition to monetary recovery for false claims, duplicate claims, claims for services not medically necessary, or false statements. The commissioner may charge interest on money to be recovered if the recovery is to be made by installment payments or debits. The interest charged shall be the rate established by the commissioner of revenue under section 270.75.

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1986]

History: *1987 c 370 art 1 s 4; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 81*

256B.0641 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENTS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 2. **Overpayments to prior owners.** The current owner of a nursing home, boarding care home, or intermediate care facility for persons with mental retardation or a related condition is liable for the overpayment amount owed by a former owner for any facility sold, transferred, or reorganized after May 15, 1987. Within 12 months of a written request by the current owner, the commissioner shall conduct a field audit of the facility for the auditable rate years during which the former owner owned the facility and issue a report of the field audit within 15 months of the written request. Nothing in this subdivision limits the liability of a former owner.

History: *1987 c 133 s 1*

256B.07 [Repealed, 1987 c 403 art 2 s 164]

256B.091 NURSING HOME PREADMISSION SCREENING PROGRAM.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 2. **Screening teams; establishment.** Each county agency designated by the commissioner of human services to participate in the program shall contract with the local board of health organized under sections 145.911 to 145.922 or other public or nonprofit agency to establish a screening team to assess the health and social needs of all applicants prior to admission to a nursing home or a boarding care home licensed under section 144A.02 or sections 144.50 to 144.56, that is certified for medical assistance as a skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility level I, or intermediate care facility level II. Each local screening team shall be composed of a public health nurse from the local public health nursing service and a social worker from the local community welfare agency. Each screening team shall have a physician available for consultation and shall utilize individuals' attending physicians' physical assessment forms, if any, in assessing needs. The individual's physician shall be included on the screening team if the physician chooses to participate. If a person who has been screened must be reassessed for purposes of assigning a case mix classification because admission to a nursing home occurs later than the time allowed by rule following the initial screening and assessment, the reassessment may be completed by the public health nurse member of the screening team. If the individual is being discharged from an acute care facility, a discharge planner from that facility may be present, at the facility's request, during the screening team's assessment of the individual and may participate in discussions but not in making the screening team's recommendations under subdivision 3, clause (e). If the assessment procedure or screening team recommendation results in a delay of the individual's discharge from the acute care facility, the facility shall not be denied medical assistance reimbursement or incur any other financial or regulatory penalty of the medical assistance program that would otherwise be caused by the individual's extended length of stay; 50 percent of the cost of this reimbursement or financial or regulatory penalty shall be paid by the state and 50 percent shall be paid by the county. Other personnel as deemed appropriate by the county agency may be included on the team. The county agency may contract with an acute care facility to have the facility's discharge planners perform the functions of a screening team with regard to individuals discharged from the facility and in those cases the discharge planners may participate in making recommendations under subdivision 3, clause (e). No member of a screening team shall have a direct or indirect financial or self-serving interest in a nursing home or noninstitutional referral such that it would not be possible for the member to consider each case objectively.

Individuals not eligible for medical assistance who are being transferred from a hospital to a nursing home or boarding care home may be screened by only one member of the screening team in consultation with the other member. The interagency board for quality assurance, with the participation of members of screening teams, shall identify other circumstances when it would be appropriate for only one member of a screening team to conduct the nursing home preadmission screenings. The committee shall report its recommendations to the legislature in January, 1987.

Subd. 3. **Screening team; duties.** Local screening teams shall seek cooperation from other public and private agencies in the community which offer services to the disabled and elderly. The responsibilities of the agency responsible for screening shall include:

(a) Provision of information and education to the general public regarding availability of the screening program;

(b) Acceptance of referrals from individuals, families, human service professionals and nursing home personnel of the community agencies;

(c) Assessment of health and social needs of referred individuals and identification of services needed to maintain these persons in the least restrictive environments;

(d) Identification of available noninstitutional services to meet the needs of individuals referred;

(e) Recommendations for individuals screened regarding:

(1) Nursing home or boarding care home admission; and

(2) Maintenance in the community with specific service plans and referrals and designation of a lead agency to implement each individual's plan of care;

(f) Provision of follow up services as needed; and

(g) Preparation of reports which may be required by the commissioner of human services.

Subd. 4. **Screening of persons.** Prior to nursing home or boarding care home admission, screening teams shall assess the needs of all applicants, except (1) patients transferred from other certified nursing homes or boarding care homes; (2) patients who, having entered acute care facilities from nursing homes or boarding care homes, are returning to a nursing home or boarding care home; (3) persons entering a facility described in section 256B.431, subdivision 4, paragraph (c); (4) individuals not eligible for medical assistance whose length of stay is expected to be 30 days or less based on a physician's certification, if the facility notifies the screening team upon admission and provides an update to the screening team on the 30th day after admission; (5) individuals who have a contractual right to have their nursing home care paid for indefinitely by the veteran's administration; or (6) persons entering a facility conducted by and for the adherents of a recognized church or religious denomination for the purpose of providing care and services for those who depend upon spiritual means, through prayer alone, for healing. The cost for screening applicants who are receiving medical assistance must be paid by the medical assistance program. The total screening cost for each county for applicants who are not eligible for medical assistance must be paid monthly by nursing homes and boarding care homes participating in the medical assistance program in the county. The monthly amount to be paid by each nursing home and boarding care home must be determined by dividing the county's estimate of the total annual cost of screenings allowed by the commissioner in the county for the following rate year by 12 to determine the monthly cost estimate and allocating the monthly cost estimate to each nursing home and boarding care home based on the number of licensed beds in the nursing home or boarding care home. The monthly cost estimate for each nursing home or boarding care home must be submitted to the nursing home or boarding care home and the state by the county no later than February 15 of each year for inclusion in the nursing home's or boarding care home's payment rate on the following rate year. The commissioner shall include the reported annual estimated cost of screenings for each nursing home or boarding care home as an operating cost of that nursing home in accordance with section 256B.431, subdivision 2b, clause (g). For all individuals regardless of payment source, if delay-of-screening timelines are not met because a county is late in screening an individual who meets the delay-of-screening criteria, the county is solely responsible for paying the cost of the preadmission screening. Notwithstanding section 256B.0641, overpayments attributable to payment of the screening costs under the medical assistance program may not be recovered from a facility.

[For text of subd 5, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 6. **Reimbursement.** The commissioner of human services shall amend the Minnesota medical assistance plan to include reimbursement for the local screening teams. Reimbursement shall not be provided for any recipient placed in a nursing home in opposition to the screening team's recommendation after January 1, 1981; provided, however, the commissioner shall not deny reimbursement for (1) an individual admitted to a nursing home or boarding care home who is assessed to need long-term supportive services if long-term supportive services other than nursing home care are not available in that community; (2) any eligible individual placed in the nursing home or boarding care home pending an appeal of the preadmission screening team's decision; (3) any eligible individual placed in the nursing home or boarding care home by a physician in an emergency situation and where the screening team has not made a decision within five working days of its initial contact; or (4) any medical assistance recipient when, after full discussion of all appropriate alternatives including those that are expected to be less costly than care in a nursing home or boarding care home, the

individual or the individual's legal representative insists on nursing home or boarding care home placement. The screening team shall provide documentation that the most cost effective alternatives available were offered to this individual or the individual's legal representative.

[For text of subd 7, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 8. **Alternative care grants.** The commissioner shall provide grants to counties participating in the program to pay costs of providing alternative care to individuals screened under subdivision 4 and nursing home or boarding care home residents who request a screening. Prior to July of each year, the commissioner shall allocate state funds available for alternative care grants to each local agency. This allocation must be made as follows: half of the state funds available for alternative care grants must be allocated to each county according to the total number of adults in that county who are recipients age 65 or older who are reported to the department by March 1 of each state fiscal year and half of the state funds available for alternative care grants must be allocated to a county according to that county's number of Medicare enrollments age 65 or older for the most recent statistical report. Payment is available under this subdivision only for individuals (1) for whom the screening team would recommend nursing home or boarding care home admission, or continued stay if alternative care were not available; (2) who are receiving medical assistance or who would be eligible for medical assistance within 180 days of admission to a nursing home; (3) who need services that are not available at that time in the county through other public assistance; and (4) who are age 65 or older.

The commissioner shall establish by rule, in accordance with chapter 14, procedures for determining grant reallocations, limits on the rates for payment of approved services, including screenings, and submittal and approval of a biennial county plan for the administration of the preadmission screening and alternative care grants program. Grants may be used for payment of costs of providing care-related supplies, equipment, and services such as, but not limited to, foster care for elderly persons, day care whether or not offered through a nursing home, nutritional counseling, or medical social services, which services are provided by a licensed health care provider, a home health service eligible for reimbursement under Titles XVIII and XIX of the federal Social Security Act, or by persons employed by or contracted with by the county board or the local welfare agency. The county agency shall ensure that a plan of care is established for each individual in accordance with subdivision 3, clause (e)(2), and that a client's service needs and eligibility is reassessed at least every six months. The plan shall include any services prescribed by the individual's attending physician as necessary and follow up services as necessary. The county agency shall provide documentation to the commissioner verifying that the individual's alternative care is not available at that time through any other public assistance or service program and shall provide documentation in each individual's plan of care and to the commissioner that the most cost-effective alternatives available have been offered to the individual and that the individual was free to choose among available qualified providers, both public and private. The county agency shall document to the commissioner that the agency made reasonable efforts to inform potential providers of the anticipated need for services under the alternative care grants program, including a minimum of 14 days written advance notice of the opportunity to be selected as a service provider and an annual public meeting with providers to explain and review the criteria for selection, and that the agency allowed potential providers an opportunity to be selected to contract with the county board. Grants to counties under this subdivision are subject to audit by the commissioner for fiscal and utilization control.

The county must select providers for contracts or agreements using the following criteria and other criteria established by the county:

(1) the need for the particular services offered by the provider;

(2) the population to be served, including the number of clients, the length of time services will be provided, and the medical condition of clients;

(3) the geographic area to be served;

(4) quality assurance methods, including appropriate licensure, certification, or standards, and supervision of employees when needed;

(5) rates for each service and unit of service exclusive of county administrative costs;

(6) evaluation of services previously delivered by the provider; and

(7) contract or agreement conditions, including billing requirements, cancellation, and indemnification.

The county must evaluate its own agency services under the criteria established for other providers. The county shall provide a written statement of the reasons for not selecting providers.

The commissioner shall establish a sliding fee schedule for requiring payment for the cost of providing services under this subdivision to persons who are eligible for the services but who are not yet eligible for medical assistance. The sliding fee schedule is not subject to chapter 14 but the commissioner shall publish the schedule and any later changes in the State Register and allow a period of 20 working days from the publication date for interested persons to comment before adopting the sliding fee schedule in final forms.

The commissioner shall apply for a waiver for federal financial participation to expand the availability of services under this subdivision. The commissioner shall provide grants to counties from the nonfederal share, unless the commissioner obtains a federal waiver for medical assistance payments, of medical assistance appropriations. A county agency may use grant money to supplement but not supplant services available through other public assistance or service programs and shall not use grant money to establish new programs for which public money is available through sources other than grants provided under this subdivision. A county agency shall not use grant money to provide care under this subdivision to an individual if the anticipated cost of providing this care would exceed the average payment, as determined by the commissioner, for the level of care that the recipient would receive if placed in a nursing home or boarding care home. The nonfederal share may be used to pay up to 90 percent of the start-up and service delivery costs of providing care under this subdivision. Each county agency that receives a grant shall pay ten percent of the costs for persons who are eligible for the services but who are not yet eligible for medical assistance.

The commissioner shall promulgate emergency rules in accordance with sections 14.29 to 14.36, to establish required documentation and reporting of care delivered.

[For text of subd 9, see M.S.1986]

History: *1987 c 299 s 20-24*

256B.092 CASE MANAGEMENT OF PERSONS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION OR RELATED CONDITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **County of financial responsibility; duties.** Before any services shall be rendered to persons with mental retardation or related conditions who are in need of social service and medical assistance, the county of financial responsibility shall conduct a diagnostic evaluation in order to determine whether the person is or may be mentally retarded or has or may have a related condition. If a client is diagnosed as mentally retarded or as having a related condition, that county must conduct a needs assessment, develop an individual service plan, provide ongoing case management services at the level identified in the individual service plan, and authorize placement for services. To the extent possible, for wards of the commissioner the county shall consider the opinions of the parent of the person with mental retardation or a related condition when developing the person's individual service plan. If the county of financial responsibility places a client in another county for services, the placement shall be made in cooperation with the host county of service, and arrangements shall

be made between the two counties for ongoing social service, including annual reviews of the client's individual service plan. The host county may not make changes in the service plan without approval by the county of financial responsibility.

[For text of subds 1a to 9, see M.S.1986]

History: *1987 c 305 s 2*

256B.15 CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATES.

If a person receives any medical assistance hereunder, on the person's death, if single, or on the death of the survivor of a married couple, either or both of whom received medical assistance, and only when there is no surviving child who is under 21 or is blind or totally disabled, the total amount paid for medical assistance rendered for the person and spouse, after age 65, without interest, shall be filed as a claim against the estate of the person or the estate of the surviving spouse in the court having jurisdiction to probate the estate. A claim against the estate of a surviving spouse who did not receive medical assistance, for medical assistance rendered for the predeceased spouse, is limited to the value of the assets of the estate that were marital property or jointly-owned property at any time during the marriage. The claim shall be considered an expense of the last illness of the decedent for the purpose of section 524.3-805. Any statute of limitations that purports to limit any county agency or the state agency, or both, to recover for medical assistance granted hereunder shall not apply to any claim made hereunder for reimbursement for any medical assistance granted hereunder. Counties may retain one-half of the nonfederal share of medical assistance collections from estates that are directly attributable to county effort.

History: *1987 c 403 art 2 s 82*

256B.17 TRANSFERS OF PROPERTY.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 4. **Period of ineligibility.** For any uncompensated transfer, the number of months of ineligibility shall be calculated by dividing the uncompensated transferred amount by the average monthly per person payment made by the medical assistance program to skilled nursing facilities for the previous calendar year. The individual shall remain ineligible until this fixed ineligibility period has expired. The period of ineligibility may exceed 24 months, and a reapplication for benefits after 24 months from the date of the transfer shall not result in eligibility unless and until the period of ineligibility has expired.

Subd. 5. **Excluded resources.** Except for the limitations contained in subdivision 6, a resource which is transferred while otherwise excluded under section 256B.06 shall not be considered an available resource for purposes of medical assistance eligibility. This exception shall not apply to applicants for or recipients of general assistance medical care benefits under chapter 256D.

[For text of subds 6 to 8, see M.S.1986]

History: *1987 c 403 art 2 s 83,84*

256B.19 DIVISION OF COST.

Subdivision 1. **Division of cost.** The cost of medical assistance paid by each county of financial responsibility shall be borne as follows: Payments shall be made by the state to the county for that portion of medical assistance paid by the federal government and the state on or before the 20th day of each month for the succeeding month upon requisition from the county showing the amount required for the succeeding month. Ninety percent of the expense of assistance not paid by federal funds available for that purpose shall be paid by the state and ten percent shall be paid by the county of financial responsibility.

For counties that participate in a Medicaid demonstration project under sections 256B.69 and 256B.71, the division of the nonfederal share of medical assistance expenses for payments made to prepaid health plans or for payments made to health maintenance organizations in the form of prepaid capitation payments, this division of medical assistance expenses shall be 95 percent by the state and five percent by the county of financial responsibility.

In counties where prepaid health plans are under contract to the commissioner to provide services to medical assistance recipients, the cost of court ordered treatment ordered without consulting the prepaid health plan that does not include diagnostic evaluation, recommendation, and referral for treatment by the prepaid health plan is the responsibility of the county of financial responsibility.

[For text of subds 2 and 3, see M.S.1986]

History: *1987 c 403 art 2 s 85*

256B.27 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE; COST REPORTS.

[For text of subds 1 to 2a, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 3. The commissioner of human services, with the written consent of the recipient, on file with the local welfare agency, shall be allowed access to all personal medical records of medical assistance recipients solely for the purposes of investigating whether or not: (a) a vendor of medical care has submitted a claim for reimbursement, a cost report or a rate application which is duplicative, erroneous, or false in whole or in part, or which results in the vendor obtaining greater compensation than the vendor is legally entitled to; or (b) the medical care was medically necessary. The vendor of medical care shall receive notification from the commissioner at least 24 hours before the commissioner gains access to such records. The determination of provision of services not medically necessary shall be made by the commissioner in consultation with an advisory committee of vendors as appointed by the commissioner on the recommendation of appropriate professional organizations. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a vendor of medical care shall not be subject to any civil or criminal liability for providing access to medical records to the commissioner of human services pursuant to this section.

Subd. 4. **Authorization of commissioner to examine records.** A person determined to be eligible for medical assistance shall be deemed to have authorized the commissioner of human services in writing to examine, for the investigative purposes identified in subdivision 3, all personal medical records developed while receiving medical assistance.

[For text of subd 5, see M.S.1986]

History: *1987 c 370 art 1 s 5,6*

256B.35 PERSONAL ALLOWANCE, PERSONS IN SKILLED NURSING HOMES OR INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES.

Subdivision 1. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, welfare allowances for clothing and personal needs for individuals receiving medical assistance while residing in any skilled nursing home, intermediate care facility, or medical institution including recipients of supplemental security income, in this state shall not be less than $40 per month from all sources.

Provided that this personal needs allowance may be paid as part of the Minnesota supplemental aid program, notwithstanding the provisions of section 256D.37, subdivision 2, and payments to the recipients from Minnesota supplemental aid funds may be made once each three months beginning in October 1977, covering liabilities that accrued during the preceding three months.

Subd. 2. Neither the skilled nursing home, the intermediate care facility, the

medical institution, nor the department of human services shall withhold or deduct any amount of this allowance for any purpose contrary to this section.

[For text of subds 3 and 4, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 5. The nursing home may transfer the personal allowance to someone other than the recipient only when the recipient or the recipient's guardian or conservator designates that person in writing to receive or expend funds on behalf of the recipient and that person certifies in writing that the allowance is spent for the well-being of the recipient. Persons, other than the recipient, in possession of the personal allowance, may use the allowance only for the well-being of the recipient. Any person, other than the recipient, who, with intent to defraud, uses the personal needs allowance for purposes other than the well-being of the recipient shall be guilty of theft and shall be sentenced pursuant to section 609.52, subdivision 3, clauses (2), (3), and (7). To prosecute under this subdivision, the attorney general or the appropriate county attorney, acting independently or at the direction of the attorney general, may institute a criminal action. A nursing home that transfers personal needs allowance funds to a person other than the recipient in good faith and in compliance with this section shall not be held liable under this subdivision.

[For text of subd 6, see M.S.1986]

History: *1987 c 254 s 7; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 86,87*

256B.37 PRIVATE INSURANCE POLICIES, CAUSES OF ACTION.

Subdivision 1. **Subrogation.** Upon furnishing medical assistance to any person having private accident or health care coverage, or having a cause of action arising out of an occurrence that necessitated the payment of medical assistance, the state agency shall be subrogated, to the extent of the cost of medical care furnished, to any rights the person may have under the terms of the coverage or under the cause of action.

The right of subrogation created in this section includes all portions of the cause of action, notwithstanding any settlement allocation or apportionment that purports to dispose of portions of the cause of action not subject to subrogation.

Subd. 2. **Civil action for recovery.** To recover under this section, the attorney general, or the appropriate county attorney, acting upon direction from the attorney general, may institute or join a civil action to enforce the subrogation rights established under this section.

Subd. 3. **Notice.** The state agency must be given notice of monetary claims against a person, firm, or corporation that may be liable in damages, or otherwise obligated to pay part or all of the cost of medical care when the state agency has paid or become liable for the cost of care. Notice must be given as follows:

(a) Applicants for medical assistance shall notify the state or local agency of any possible claims when they submit the application. Recipients of medical assistance shall notify the state or local agency of any possible claims when those claims arise.

(b) A person providing medical care services to a recipient of medical assistance shall notify the state agency when the person has reason to believe that a third party may be liable for payment of the cost of medical care.

(c) A person who is party to a claim upon which the state agency may be entitled to subrogation under this section shall notify the state agency of its potential subrogation claim before filing a claim, commencing an action, or negotiating a settlement.

Notice given to the local agency is not sufficient to meet the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c).

Subd. 4. **Recovery.** Upon any judgment, award, or settlement of a cause of action, or any part of it, upon which the state agency has a subrogation right, including compensation for liquidated, unliquidated, or other damages, reasonable costs of collection, including attorney fees, must be deducted first. The full amount of medical assistance paid to or on behalf of the person as a result of the injury must be deducted

next and paid to the state agency. The rest must be paid to the medical assistance recipient or other plaintiff. The plaintiff, however, must receive at least one-third of the net recovery after attorney fees and collection costs.

Subd. 5. **Private benefits to be used first.** Private accident and health care coverage for medical services is primary coverage and must be exhausted before medical assistance is paid. When a person who is otherwise eligible for medical assistance has private accident or health care coverage, including a prepaid health plan, the private health care benefits available to the person must be used first and to the fullest extent. Supplemental payment may be made by medical assistance, but the combined total amount paid must not exceed the amount payable under medical assistance in the absence of other coverage. Medical assistance must not make supplemental payment for covered services rendered by a vendor who participates or contracts with a health coverage plan if the plan requires the vendor to accept the plan's payment as payment in full.

Subd. 6. **Parent's or obligee's health plan.** When a parent or a person with an obligation of support has enrolled in a prepaid health care plan under section 518.171, subdivision 1, the commissioner of human services shall limit the recipient of medical assistance to the benefits payable under that prepaid health care plan to the extent that services available under medical assistance are also available under the prepaid health care plan.

History: *1987 c 370 art 2 s 9-14; 1987 c 403 art 3 s 26*

256B.421 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of this section and sections 256B.41, 256B.411, 256B.431, 256B.433, 256B.47, 256B.48, 256B.50, and 256B.502, the following terms and phrases shall have the meaning given to them.

[For text of subds 2 to 15, see M.S.1986]

History: *1987 c 403 art 2 s 88*

256B.431 RATE DETERMINATION.

[For text of subds 1 to 2a, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 2b. **Operating costs, after July 1, 1985.** (a) For rate years beginning on or after July 1, 1985, the commissioner shall establish procedures for determining per diem reimbursement for operating costs.

(b) The commissioner shall contract with an econometric firm with recognized expertise in and access to national economic change indices that can be applied to the appropriate cost categories when determining the operating cost payment rate.

(c) The commissioner shall analyze and evaluate each nursing home's cost report of allowable operating costs incurred by the nursing home during the reporting year immediately preceding the rate year for which the payment rate becomes effective.

(d) The commissioner shall establish limits on actual allowable historical operating cost per diems based on cost reports of allowable operating costs for the reporting year that begins October 1, 1983, taking into consideration relevant factors including resident needs, geographic location, size of the nursing home, and the costs that must be incurred for the care of residents in an efficiently and economically operated nursing home. In developing the geographic groups for purposes of reimbursement under this section, the commissioner shall ensure that nursing homes in any county contiguous to the Minneapolis-St. Paul seven-county metropolitan area are included in the same geographic group. The limits established by the commissioner shall not be less, in the aggregate, than the 60th percentile of total actual allowable historical operating cost per diems for each group of nursing homes established under subdivision 1 based on cost reports of allowable operating costs in the previous reporting year. For rate years beginning on or after July 1, 1987, or until the new base period is established, facilities

located in geographic group I as described in Minnesota Rules, part 9549.0052 (Emergency), on January 1, 1987, may choose to have the commissioner apply either the care related limits or the other operating cost limits calculated for facilities located in geographic group II, or both, if either of the limits calculated for the group II facilities is higher. The efficiency incentive for geographic group I nursing homes must be calculated based on geographic group I limits. The phase-in must be established utilizing the chosen limits. For purposes of these exceptions to the geographic grouping requirements, the definitions in Minnesota Rules, parts 9549.0050 to 9549.0059 (Emergency), and 9549.0010 to 9549.0080, apply. The limits established under this paragraph remain in effect until the commissioner establishes a new base period. Until the new base period is established, the commissioner shall adjust the limits annually using the appropriate economic change indices established in paragraph (e). In determining allowable historical operating cost per diems for purposes of setting limits and nursing home payment rates, the commissioner shall divide the allowable historical operating costs by the actual number of resident days, except that where a nursing home is occupied at less than 90 percent of licensed capacity days, the commissioner may establish procedures to adjust the computation of the per diem to an imputed occupancy level at or below 90 percent. The commissioner shall establish efficiency incentives as appropriate. The commissioner may establish efficiency incentives for different operating cost categories. The commissioner shall consider establishing efficiency incentives in care related cost categories. The commissioner may combine one or more operating cost categories and may use different methods for calculating payment rates for each operating cost category or combination of operating cost categories. For the rate year beginning on July 1, 1985, the commissioner shall:

(1) allow nursing homes that have an average length of stay of 180 days or less in their skilled nursing level of care, 125 percent of the care related limit and 105 percent of the other operating cost limit established by rule; and

(2) exempt nursing homes licensed on July 1, 1983, by the commissioner to provide residential services for the physically handicapped under Minnesota Rules, parts 9570.2000 to 9570.3600, from the care related limits and allow 105 percent of the other operating cost limit established by rule.

For the purpose of calculating the other operating cost efficiency incentive for nursing homes referred to in clause (1) or (2), the commissioner shall use the other operating cost limit established by rule before application of the 105 percent.

(e) The commissioner shall establish a composite index or indices by determining the appropriate economic change indicators to be applied to specific operating cost categories or combination of operating cost categories.

(f) Each nursing home shall receive an operating cost payment rate equal to the sum of the nursing home's operating cost payment rates for each operating cost category. The operating cost payment rate for an operating cost category shall be the lesser of the nursing home's historical operating cost in the category increased by the appropriate index established in paragraph (e) for the operating cost category plus an efficiency incentive established pursuant to paragraph (d) or the limit for the operating cost category increased by the same index. If a nursing home's actual historic operating costs are greater than the prospective payment rate for that rate year, there shall be no retroactive cost settle-up. In establishing payment rates for one or more operating cost categories, the commissioner may establish separate rates for different classes of residents based on their relative care needs.

(g) The commissioner shall include the reported actual real estate tax liability or payments in lieu of real estate tax of each nursing home as an operating cost of that nursing home. For rate years beginning on or after July 1, 1987, the reported actual real estate tax liability or payments in lieu of real estate tax of nursing homes shall be adjusted to include an amount equal to one-half of the dollar change in real estate taxes from the prior year. The commissioner shall include a reported actual special assessment, and reported actual license fees required by the Minnesota department of health, for each nursing home as an operating cost of that nursing home. Total adjusted real

estate tax liability, payments in lieu of real estate tax, actual special assessments paid, and license fees paid as required by the Minnesota department of health, for each nursing home (1) shall be divided by actual resident days in order to compute the operating cost payment rate for this operating cost category, (2) shall not be used to compute the 60th percentile or other operating cost limits established by the commissioner, and (3) shall not be increased by the composite index or indices established pursuant to paragraph (e).

(h) For rate years beginning on or after July 1, 1987, the commissioner shall adjust the rates of a nursing home that meets the criteria for the special dietary needs of its residents as specified in section 144A.071, subdivision 3, clause (c), and the requirements in section 31.651. The adjustment for raw food cost shall be the difference between the nursing home's allowable historical raw food cost per diem and 115 percent of the median historical allowable raw food cost per diem of the corresponding geographic group.

The rate adjustment shall be reduced by the applicable phase-in percentage as provided under subdivision 2h.

[For text of subds 2c and 2d, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 2e. **Contracts for services for ventilator dependent persons.** The commissioner may contract with a nursing home eligible to receive medical assistance payments to provide services to a ventilator dependent person identified by the commissioner according to criteria developed by the commissioner, including:

(1) nursing home care has been recommended for the person by a preadmission screening team;

(2) the person has been assessed at case mix classification K;

(3) the person has been hospitalized for at least six months and no longer requires inpatient acute care hospital services; and

(4) the commissioner has determined that necessary services for the person cannot be provided under existing nursing home rates.

The commissioner may issue a request for proposals to provide services to a ventilator dependent person to nursing homes eligible to receive medical assistance payments and shall select nursing homes from among respondents according to criteria developed by the commissioner, including:

(1) the cost effectiveness and appropriateness of services;

(2) the nursing home's compliance with federal and state licensing and certification standards; and

(3) the proximity of the nursing home to a ventilator dependent person identified by the commissioner who requires nursing home placement.

The commissioner may negotiate an adjustment to the operating cost payment rate for a nursing home selected by the commissioner from among respondents to the request for proposals. The negotiated adjustment must reflect only the actual additional cost of meeting the specialized care needs of a ventilator dependent person identified by the commissioner for whom necessary services cannot be provided under existing nursing home rates and which are not otherwise covered under Minnesota Rules, parts 9549.0010 to 9549.0080 or 9505.0170 to 9505.0475. The negotiated adjustment shall not affect the payment rate charged to private paying residents under the provisions of section 256B.48, subdivision 1. The negotiated adjustment paid pursuant to this paragraph is specifically exempt from the definition of "rule" and the rulemaking procedures required by chapter 14 and section 256B.502.

[For text of subds 2f to 3, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 3a. **Property-related costs after July 1, 1985.** (a) For rate years beginning on or after July 1, 1985, the commissioner, by permanent rule, shall reimburse nursing home providers that are vendors in the medical assistance program for the rental use

of real estate and depreciable equipment. "Real estate" means land improvements, buildings, and attached fixtures used directly for resident care. "Depreciable equipment" means the standard moveable resident care equipment and support service equipment generally used in long-term care facilities.

(b) In developing the method for determining payment rates for the rental use of nursing homes, the commissioner shall consider factors designed to:

(1) simplify the administrative procedures for determining payment rates for property-related costs;

(2) minimize discretionary or appealable decisions;

(3) eliminate any incentives to sell nursing homes;

(4) recognize legitimate costs of preserving and replacing property;

(5) recognize the existing costs of outstanding indebtedness allowable under the statutes and rules in effect on May 1, 1983;

(6) address the current value of, if used directly for patient care, land improvements, buildings, attached fixtures, and equipment;

(7) establish an investment per bed limitation;

(8) reward efficient management of capital assets;

(9) provide equitable treatment of facilities;

(10) consider a variable rate; and

(11) phase-in implementation of the rental reimbursement method.

(c) No later than January 1, 1984, the commissioner shall report to the legislature on any further action necessary or desirable in order to implement the purposes and provisions of this subdivision.

(d) For rate years beginning on or after July 1, 1987, a nursing home which has reduced licensed bed capacity after January 1, 1986, shall be allowed to:

(1) aggregate the applicable investment per bed limits based on the number of beds licensed prior to the reduction; and

(2) establish capacity days for each rate year following the licensure reduction based on the number of beds licensed on the previous April 1 if the commissioner is notified of the change by April 4. The notification must include a copy of the delicensure request that has been submitted to the commissioner of health.

(e) Until the rental reimbursement method is fully phased in, a nursing home whose final property-related payment rate is the rental rate shall continue to have its property-related payment rates established based on the rental reimbursement method.

Subd. 3b. **Depreciation recapture.** The sale of a nursing home which occurred on or after July 1, 1987, shall result in depreciation recapture payments to be paid by the buyer to the commissioner within 60 days of the department's notification if the sale price exceeds the nursing home's allowable historical cost of capital assets including land recognized by the commissioner at the time of the sale reduced by accumulated depreciation. The gross recapture amount shall be the lesser of the actual gain on the sale or actual depreciation recognized for the purpose of calculating medical assistance payment rates from the latter of the date of previous sale or November 1, 1972, through the date of the sale. The gross recapture amount shall be allocated to each reporting year from the latter of the date of previous sale or November 1, 1972, through the date of the sale in the same ratio as depreciation amounts recognized for the purpose of calculating medical assistance payment rates. The amount allocated to each reporting year shall be divided by the total actual resident days in that reporting year, thereby determining a cost-per-resident day. The recapture amount shall be the cost-per-resident day for each reporting year times the actual medical assistance resident days for the corresponding rate year following each reporting year. No payment of depreciation recapture shall be assessed with respect to a portion of a rate year beginning after June 30, 1985, in which the property-related payment rate was based on the nursing home's rental value. The recapture amount shall be reduced by one percent for each month of continuous ownership since the previous date of sale of the nursing home up

to a maximum of 100 months. For the purpose of this subdivision, the sale of a nursing home means the sale or transfer of a nursing home's capital assets or capital stock or the redemption of ownership interests by members of a partnership. In the case of a sale or transfer of a nursing home in which the new operator leases depreciable equipment used in the nursing home business from the prior operator, or an affiliate of the prior operator, the net present value of the lease shall be added to the transaction price for the purpose of determining the actual gain on the sale. In the case of a partial sale of a nursing home, the provisions of this subdivision will be applied proportionately to sales or accumulations of sales that exceed 20 percent of a nursing home's capital assets or capital stock. Depreciation recapture payments resulting from the sale of a nursing home which occurred before July 1, 1985, shall be calculated in accordance with reimbursement regulations in effect on the date of the sale.

Subd. 3c. **Plant and maintenance costs.** For the rate years beginning on or after July 1, 1987, the commissioner shall allow as an expense in the reporting year of occurrence the lesser of the actual allowable plant and maintenance costs for supplies, minor equipment, equipment repairs, building repairs, purchased services and service contracts, except for arms-length service contracts whose primary purpose is supervision, or $325 per licensed bed.

Subd. 4. **Special rates.** (a) For the rate years beginning July 1, 1983, and July 1, 1984, a newly constructed nursing home or one with a capacity increase of 50 percent or more may, upon written application to the commissioner, receive an interim payment rate for reimbursement for property-related costs calculated pursuant to the statutes and rules in effect on May 1, 1983, and for operating costs negotiated by the commissioner based upon the 60th percentile established for the appropriate group under subdivision 2a, to be effective from the first day a medical assistance recipient resides in the home or for the added beds. For newly constructed nursing homes which are not included in the calculation of the 60th percentile for any group, subdivision 2f, the commissioner shall establish by rule procedures for determining interim operating cost payment rates and interim property-related cost payment rates. The interim payment rate shall not be in effect for more than 17 months. The commissioner shall establish, by emergency and permanent rules, procedures for determining the interim rate and for making a retroactive cost settle-up after the first year of operation; the cost settled operating cost per diem shall not exceed 110 percent of the 60th percentile established for the appropriate group. Until procedures determining operating cost payment rates according to mix of resident needs are established, the commissioner shall establish by rule procedures for determining payment rates for nursing homes which provide care under a lesser care level than the level for which the nursing home is certified.

(b) For the rate years beginning on or after July 1, 1985, a newly constructed nursing home or one with a capacity increase of 50 percent or more may, upon written application to the commissioner, receive an interim payment rate for reimbursement for property related costs, operating costs, and real estate taxes and special assessments calculated under rules promulgated by the commissioner.

(c) For rate years beginning on or after July 1, 1983, the commissioner may exclude from a provision of 12 MCAR S 2.050 any facility that is licensed by the commissioner of health only as a boarding care home, certified by the commissioner of health as an intermediate care facility, is licensed by the commissioner of human services under Minnesota Rules, parts 9520.0500 to 9520.0690, and has less than five percent of its licensed boarding care capacity reimbursed by the medical assistance program. Until a permanent rule to establish the payment rates for facilities meeting these criteria is promulgated, the commissioner shall establish the medical assistance payment rate as follows:

(1) The desk audited payment rate in effect on June 30, 1983, remains in effect until the end of the facility's fiscal year. The commissioner shall not allow any amendments to the cost report on which this desk audited payment rate is based.

(2) For each fiscal year beginning between July 1, 1983, and June 30, 1985, the

facility's payment rate shall be established by increasing the desk audited operating cost payment rate determined in clause (1) at an annual rate of five percent.

(3) For fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 1985, the facility's payment rate shall be established by increasing the facility's payment rate in the facility's prior fiscal year by the increase indicated by the consumer price index for Minneapolis and St. Paul.

(4) For the purpose of establishing payment rates under this paragraph, the facility's rate and reporting years coincide with the facility's fiscal year.

A facility that meets the criteria of this paragraph shall submit annual cost reports on forms prescribed by the commissioner.

For the rate year beginning July 1, 1985, each nursing home total payment rate must be effective two calendar months from the first day of the month after the commissioner issues the rate notice to the nursing home. From July 1, 1985, until the total payment rate becomes effective, the commissioner shall make payments to each nursing home at a temporary rate that is the prior rate year's operating cost payment rate increased by 2.6 percent plus the prior rate year's property-related payment rate and the prior rate year's real estate taxes and special assessments payment rate. The commissioner shall retroactively adjust the property-related payment rate and the real estate taxes and special assessments payment rate to July 1, 1985, but must not retroactively adjust the operating cost payment rate.

(d) For the purposes of Minnesota Rules, part 9549.0060, subpart 13, item F, the following types of transactions shall not be considered a sale or reorganization of a provider entity:

(1) the sale or transfer of a nursing home upon death of an owner;

(2) the sale or transfer of a nursing home due to serious illness or disability of an owner as defined under the social security act;

(3) the sale or transfer of the nursing home upon retirement of an owner at 62 years of age or older;

(4) any transaction in which a partner, owner, or shareholder acquires an interest or share of another partner, owner, or shareholder in a nursing home business provided the acquiring partner, owner, or shareholder has less than 50 percent ownership after the acquisition;

(5) a sale and leaseback to the same licensee which does not constitute a change in facility license;

(6) a transfer of an interest to a trust;

(7) gifts or other transfers for no consideration;

(8) a merger of two or more related organizations;

(9) a transfer of interest in a facility held in receivership;

(10) a change in the legal form of doing business other than a publicly held organization which becomes privately held or vice versa;

(11) the addition of a new partner, owner, or shareholder who owns less than 20 percent of the nursing home or the issuance of stock; or

(12) an involuntary transfer including foreclosure, bankruptcy, or assignment for the benefit of creditors.

Any increase in allowable debt or allowable interest expense or other cost incurred as a result of the foregoing transactions shall be a nonallowable cost for purposes of reimbursement under Minnesota Rules, parts 9549.0010 to 9549.0080.

(e) For rate years beginning on or after July 1, 1986, the commissioner may exclude from a provision of Minnesota Rules, parts 9549.0010 to 9549.0080, any facility that is certified by the commissioner of health as an intermediate care facility, licensed by the commissioner of human services as a chemical dependency treatment program, and enrolled in the medical assistance program as an institution for mental disease. The commissioner of human services shall establish a medical assistance

payment rate for these facilities. Chapter 14 does not apply to the procedures and criteria used to establish the ratesetting structure. The ratesetting method is not appealable.

[For text of subds 5 and 6, see M.S.1986]

History: *1987 c 403 art 2 s 89; art 4 s 6-11*

256B.433 ANCILLARY SERVICES.

Subdivision 1. **Setting payment; monitoring use of therapy services.** The commissioner shall promulgate rules pursuant to the administrative procedure act to set the amount and method of payment for ancillary materials and services provided to recipients residing in nursing homes. Payment for materials and services may be made to either the nursing home in the operating cost per diem, to the vendor of ancillary services pursuant to Minnesota Rules, parts 9500.0750 to 9500.1080 or to a nursing home pursuant to Minnesota Rules, parts 9500.0750 to 9500.1080. Payment for the same or similar service to a recipient shall not be made to both the nursing home and the vendor. The commissioner shall ensure the avoidance of double payments through audits and adjustments to the nursing home's annual cost report as required by section 256B.47, and that charges and arrangements for ancillary materials and services are cost effective and as would be incurred by a prudent and cost-conscious buyer. Therapy services provided to a recipient must be medically necessary and appropriate to the medical condition of the recipient. If the vendor, nursing home, or ordering physician cannot provide adequate medical necessity justification, as determined by the commissioner, in consultation with an advisory committee that meets the requirements of section 256B.064, subdivision 1a, the commissioner may recover or disallow the payment for the services and may require prior authorization for therapy services as a condition of payment or may impose administrative sanctions to limit the vendor, nursing home, or ordering physician's participation in the medical assistance program.

Subd. 2. **Certification that treatment is appropriate.** The physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, or audiologist who provides or supervises the provision of therapy services, other than an initial evaluation, to a medical assistance recipient must certify in writing that the therapy's nature, scope, duration, and intensity are appropriate to the medical condition of the recipient every 30 days. The therapist's statement of certification must be maintained in the recipient's medical record together with the specific orders by the physician and the treatment plan. If the recipient's medical record does not include these documents, the commissioner may recover or disallow the payment for such services. If the therapist determines that the therapy's nature, scope, duration, or intensity is not appropriate to the medical condition of the recipient, the therapist must provide a statement to that effect in writing to the nursing home for inclusion in the recipient's medical record. The commissioner shall utilize a peer review program that meets the requirements of section 256B.064, subdivision 1a, to make recommendations regarding the medical necessity of services provided.

Subd. 3. **Separate billings for therapy services.** Until new procedures are developed under subdivision 4, payment for therapy services provided to nursing home residents that are billed separate from nursing home's payment rate or according to Minnesota Rules, parts 9500.0750 to 9500.1080, shall be subject to the following requirements:

(a) The practitioner invoice must include, in a format specified by the commissioner, the provider number of the nursing home where the medical assistance recipient resides regardless of the service setting.

(b) Nursing homes that are related by ownership, control, affiliation, or employment status to the vendor of therapy services shall report, in a format specified by the commissioner, the revenues received during the reporting year for therapy services provided to residents of the nursing home. For rate years beginning on or after July 1, 1988, the commissioner shall offset the revenues received during the reporting year for

therapy services provided to residents of the nursing home to the total payment rate of the nursing home by dividing the amount of offset by the nursing home's actual resident days. Except as specified in paragraphs (d) and (f), the amount of offset shall be the revenue in excess of 108 percent of the cost removed from the cost report resulting from the requirement of the commissioner to ensure the avoidance of double payments as determined by section 256B.47. In establishing a new base period for the purpose of setting operating cost payment rate limits and rates, the commissioner shall not include the revenues offset in accordance with this section.

(c) For rate years beginning on or after July 1, 1987, nursing homes shall limit charges in total to vendors of therapy services for renting space, equipment, or obtaining other services during the rate year to 108 percent of the annualized cost removed from the reporting year cost report resulting from the requirement of the commissioner to ensure the avoidance of double payments as determined by section 256B.47. If the arrangement for therapy services is changed so that a nursing home is subject to this paragraph instead of paragraph (b), the cost that is used to determine rent must be adjusted to exclude the annualized costs for therapy services that are not provided in the rate year. The maximum charges to the vendors shall be based on the commissioner's determination of annualized cost and may be subsequently adjusted upon resolution of appeals.

(d) The commissioner shall require reporting of all revenues relating to the provision of therapy services and shall establish a therapy cost, as determined by section 256B.47, to revenue ratio for the reporting year ending in 1986. For subsequent reporting years, the ratio may increase five percentage points in total until a new base year is established under paragraph (e). Increases in excess of five percentage points may be allowed if adequate justification is provided to and accepted by the commissioner. Unless an exception is allowed by the commissioner, the amount of offset in paragraph (b) is the greater of the amount determined in paragraph (b) or the amount of offset that is imputed based on one minus the lesser of (1) the actual reporting year ratio or (2) the base reporting year ratio increased by five percentage points, multiplied by the revenues.

(e) The commissioner may establish a new reporting year base for determining the cost to revenue ratio.

(f) If the arrangement for therapy services is changed so that a nursing home is subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) instead of paragraph (c), an average cost to revenue ratio based on the ratios of nursing homes that are subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) shall be imputed for paragraph (d).

(g) This section does not allow unrelated nursing homes to reorganize related organization therapy services and provide services among themselves to avoid offsetting revenues. Nursing homes that are found to be in violation of this provision shall be subject to the penalty requirements of section 256B.48, subdivision 1, paragraph (f).

Subd. 4. **Advisory committee.** The commissioner shall convene an advisory committee consisting of nursing home consumers, therapists from each discipline, and representatives of the nursing home industry. The commissioner, in consultation with the advisory committee, shall study alternative methods of payment for therapy services provided to nursing home residents and report to the legislature by February 1, 1989.

History: *1987 c 403 art 2 s 90*

256B.47 NONALLOWABLE COSTS; NOTICE OF INCREASES TO PRIVATE PAYING RESIDENTS; ALLOCATION OF COSTS.

Subdivision 1. **Nonallowable costs.** The following costs shall not be recognized as allowable: (1) political contributions; (2) salaries or expenses of a lobbyist, as defined in section 10A.01, subdivision 11, for lobbying activities; (3) advertising designed to encourage potential residents to select a particular nursing home; (4) assessments levied by the commissioner of health for uncorrected violations; (5) legal and related expenses

for unsuccessful challenges to decisions by governmental agencies; (6) memberships in sports, health or similar social clubs or organizations; (7) costs incurred for activities directly related to influencing employees with respect to unionization; and (8) direct and indirect costs of providing services which are billed separately from the nursing home's payment rate or pursuant to Minnesota Rules, parts 9500.0750 to 9500.1080. The commissioner shall by rule exclude the costs of any other items not directly related to the provision of resident care.

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 3. **Allocation of costs.** To ensure the avoidance of double payments as required by section 256B.433, the direct and indirect reporting year costs of providing residents of nursing homes that are not hospital attached with therapy services that are billed separately from the nursing home payment rate or according to Minnesota Rules, parts 9500.0750 to 9500.1080, must be determined and deducted from the appropriate cost categories of the annual cost report as follows:

(a) The costs of wages and salaries for employees providing or participating in providing and consultants providing services shall be allocated to the therapy service based on direct identification.

(b) The costs of fringe benefits and payroll taxes relating to the costs in paragraph (a) must be allocated to the therapy service based on direct identification or the ratio of total costs in paragraph (a) to the sum of total allowable salaries and the costs in paragraph (a).

(c) The costs of housekeeping, plant operations and maintenance, real estate taxes, special assessments, property and insurance, other than the amounts classified as a fringe benefit, must be allocated to the therapy service based on the ratio of service area square footage to total facility square footage.

(d) The costs of bookkeeping and medical records must be allocated to the therapy service either by the method in paragraph (e) or based on direct identification. Direct identification may be used if adequate documentation is provided to, and accepted by, the commissioner.

(e) The costs of administrators, bookkeeping, and medical records salaries, except as provided in paragraph (d), must be allocated to the therapy service based on the ratio of the total costs in paragraphs (a) to (d) to the sum of total allowable nursing home costs and the costs in paragraphs (a) to (d).

Subd. 4. **Allocation of costs; hospital-attached facilities.** To ensure the avoidance of double payments as required by section 256B.433, the direct and indirect reporting year costs of providing therapy services to residents of a hospital-attached nursing home, when the services are billed separately from the nursing home's payment rate or according to Minnesota Rules, parts 9500.0750 to 9500.1080, must be determined and deducted from the appropriate cost categories of the annual cost report based on the Medicare step-down as prepared in accordance with instructions provided by the commissioner.

History: *1987 c 403 art 2 s 91-93*

256B.48 CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION.

Subdivision 1. **Prohibited practices.** A nursing home is not eligible to receive medical assistance payments unless it refrains from all of the following:

(a) Charging private paying residents rates for similar services which exceed those which are approved by the state agency for medical assistance recipients as determined by the prospective desk audit rate, except under the following circumstances: the nursing home may (1) charge private paying residents a higher rate for a private room, and (2) charge for special services which are not included in the daily rate if medical assistance residents are charged separately at the same rate for the same services in addition to the daily rate paid by the commissioner. Services covered by the payment rate must be the same regardless of payment source. Special services, if offered, must

be offered to all residents and charged separately at the same rate. Residents are free to select or decline special services. Special services must not include services which must be provided by the nursing home in order to comply with licensure or certification standards and that if not provided would result in a deficiency or violation by the nursing home. Services beyond those required to comply with licensure or certification standards must not be charged separately as a special service if they were included in the payment rate for the previous reporting year. A nursing home that charges a private paying resident a rate in violation of this clause is subject to an action by the state of Minnesota or any of its subdivisions or agencies for civil damages. A private paying resident or the resident's legal representative has a cause of action for civil damages against a nursing home that charges the resident rates in violation of this clause. The damages awarded shall include three times the payments that result from the violation, together with costs and disbursements, including reasonable attorneys' fees or their equivalent. A private paying resident or the resident's legal representative, the state, subdivision or agency, or a nursing home may request a hearing to determine the allowed rate or rates at issue in the cause of action. Within 15 calendar days after receiving a request for such a hearing, the commissioner shall request assignment of an administrative law judge under sections 14.48 to 14.56 to conduct the hearing as soon as possible or according to agreement by the parties. The administrative law judge shall issue a report within 15 calendar days following the close of the hearing. The prohibition set forth in this clause shall not apply to facilities licensed as boarding care facilities which are not certified as skilled or intermediate care facilities level I or II for reimbursement through medical assistance.

(b) Requiring an applicant for admission to the home, or the guardian or conservator of the applicant, as a condition of admission, to pay any fee or deposit in excess of $100, loan any money to the nursing home, or promise to leave all or part of the applicant's estate to the home.

(c) Requiring any resident of the nursing home to utilize a vendor of health care services who is a licensed physician or pharmacist chosen by the nursing home.

(d) Providing differential treatment on the basis of status with regard to public assistance.

(e) Discriminating in admissions, services offered, or room assignment on the basis of status with regard to public assistance. Admissions discrimination shall include, but is not limited to:

(1) basing admissions decisions upon assurance by the applicant to the nursing home, or the applicant's guardian or conservator, that the applicant is neither eligible for nor will seek public assistance for payment of nursing home care costs; and

(2) engaging in preferential selection from waiting lists based on an applicant's ability to pay privately.

The collection and use by a nursing home of financial information of any applicant pursuant to the preadmission screening program established by section 256B.091 shall not raise an inference that the nursing home is utilizing that information for any purpose prohibited by this paragraph.

(f) Requiring any vendor of medical care as defined by section 256B.02, subdivision 7, who is reimbursed by medical assistance under a separate fee schedule, to pay any amount based on utilization or service levels or any portion of the vendor's fee to the nursing home except as payment for renting or leasing space or equipment or purchasing support services from the nursing home as limited by section 256B.433. All agreements must be disclosed to the commissioner upon request of the commissioner. Nursing homes and vendors of ancillary services that are found to be in violation of this provision shall each be subject to an action by the state of Minnesota or any of its subdivisions or agencies for treble civil damages on the portion of the fee in excess of that allowed by this provision and section 256B.433. Damages awarded must include three times the excess payments together with costs and disbursements including reasonable attorney's fees or their equivalent.

(g) Refusing, for more than 24 hours, to accept a resident returning to the same bed or a bed certified for the same level of care, in accordance with a physician's order authorizing transfer, after receiving inpatient hospital services.

The prohibitions set forth in clause (b) shall not apply to a retirement home with more than 325 beds including at least 150 licensed nursing home beds and which:

(1) is owned and operated by an organization tax-exempt under section 290.05, subdivision 1, clause (i); and

(2) accounts for all of the applicant's assets which are required to be assigned to the home so that only expenses for the cost of care of the applicant may be charged against the account; and

(3) agrees in writing at the time of admission to the home to permit the applicant, or the applicant's guardian, or conservator, to examine the records relating to the applicant's account upon request, and to receive an audited statement of the expenditures charged against the applicant's individual account upon request; and

(4) agrees in writing at the time of admission to the home to permit the applicant to withdraw from the home at any time and to receive, upon withdrawal, the balance of the applicant's individual account.

For a period not to exceed 180 days, the commissioner may continue to make medical assistance payments to a nursing home or boarding care home which is in violation of this section if extreme hardship to the residents would result. In these cases the commissioner shall issue an order requiring the nursing home to correct the violation. The nursing home shall have 20 days from its receipt of the order to correct the violation. If the violation is not corrected within the 20-day period the commissioner may reduce the payment rate to the nursing home by up to 20 percent. The amount of the payment rate reduction shall be related to the severity of the violation, and shall remain in effect until the violation is corrected. The nursing home or boarding care home may appeal the commissioner's action pursuant to the provisions of chapter 14 pertaining to contested cases. An appeal shall be considered timely if written notice of appeal is received by the commissioner within 20 days of notice of the commissioner's proposed action.

In the event that the commissioner determines that a nursing home is not eligible for reimbursement for a resident who is eligible for medical assistance, the commissioner may authorize the nursing home to receive reimbursement on a temporary basis until the resident can be relocated to a participating nursing home.

Certified beds in facilities which do not allow medical assistance intake on July 1, 1984, or after shall be deemed to be decertified for purposes of section 144A.071 only.

[For text of subds 1a to 7, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 8. **Notification to a spouse.** When a private pay resident who has not yet been screened by the preadmission screening team is admitted to a nursing home or boarding care facility, the nursing home or boarding care facility must notify the resident and the resident's spouse of the following:

(1) their right to retain certain resources under sections 256B.14, subdivision 2, and 256B.17; and

(2) that the federal Medicare hospital insurance benefits program covers posthospital extended care services in a qualified skilled nursing facility for up to 100 days and that there are several limitations on this benefit. The resident and the resident's family must be informed about all mechanisms to appeal limitations imposed under this federal benefit program.

This notice may be included in the nursing home's or boarding care facility's admission agreement and must clearly explain what resources the resident and spouse may retain if the resident applies for medical assistance. The department of human services must notify nursing homes and boarding care facilities of changes in the determination of medical assistance eligibility that relate to resources retained by a resident and the resident's spouse.

The preadmission screening team has primary responsibility for informing all private pay applicants to a nursing home or boarding care facility of the resources the resident and spouse may retain.

History: *1987 c 364 s 1; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 94*

256B.50 APPEALS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 2. **Appraised value.** (a) An appeal request concerning the appraised value of a nursing home's real estate as established by an appraisal conducted after July 1, 1986, shall state the appraised value the nursing home believes is correct for the building, land improvements, and attached equipment and the name and address of the firm with whom contacts may be made regarding the appeal. The appeal request shall include a separate appraisal report prepared by an independent appraiser of real estate which supports the total appraised value claimed by the nursing home. The appraisal report shall be based on an on-site inspection of the nursing home's real estate using the depreciated replacement cost method, must be in a form comparable to that used in the commissioner's appraisal, and must pertain to the same time period covered by the appealed appraisal. The appraisal report shall include information related to the training, experience, and qualifications of the appraiser who conducted and prepared the appraisal report for the nursing home.

(b) A nursing home which has filed an appeal request prior to the effective date of Laws 1987, chapter 403, concerning the appraised value of its real estate as established by an appraisal conducted before July 1, 1986, must submit to the commissioner the information described under paragraph (a) within 60 days of the effective date of Laws 1987, chapter 403, in order to preserve the appeal.

(c) An appeal request which has been filed pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (a) or (b) shall be finally resolved through an agreement entered into by and between the commissioner and the nursing home or by the determination of an independent appraiser based upon an on-site inspection of the nursing home's real estate using the depreciated replacement cost method, in a form comparable to that used in the commissioner's appraisal, and pertaining to the same time period covered by the appealed appraisal. The appraiser shall be selected by the commissioner and the nursing home by alternately striking names from a list of appraisers approved for state contracts by the commissioner of administration. The appraiser shall make assurances to the satisfaction of the commissioner and the nursing home that the appraiser is experienced in the use of the depreciated cost method of appraisals and that the appraiser is free of any personal, political, or economic conflict of interest that may impair the ability to function in a fair and objective manner. The commissioner shall pay costs of the appraiser through a negotiated rate for services of the appraiser.

(d) The decision of the appraiser is final and is not appealable. Exclusive jurisdiction for appeals of the appraised value of nursing homes lies with the procedures set out in this subdivision. No court of law shall possess subject matter jurisdiction to hear appeals of appraised value determinations of nursing homes.

History: *1987 c 403 art 4 s 12*

256B.501 RATES FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION OR RELATED CONDITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meaning given them.

(a) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of human services.

(b) "Facility" means a facility licensed as a mental retardation residential facility under section 252.28, licensed as a supervised living facility under chapter 144, and certified as an intermediate care facility for persons with mental retardation or related conditions.

(c) "Waivered service" means home or community-based service authorized under United States Code, title 42, section 1396n(c), as amended through December 31, 1982, and defined in the Minnesota state plan for the provision of medical assistance services. Waivered services include, at a minimum, case management, family training and support, developmental training homes, supervised living arrangements, semi-independent living services, respite care, and training and habilitation services.

Subd. 2. **Authority.** The commissioner shall establish procedures and rules for determining rates for care of residents of intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation or related conditions which qualify as providers of medical assistance and waivered services. Approved rates shall be established on the basis of methods and standards that the commissioner finds adequate to provide for the costs that must be incurred for the quality care of residents in efficiently and economically operated facilities and services. The procedures shall specify the costs that are allowable for payment through medical assistance. The commissioner may use experts from outside the department in the establishment of the procedures.

[For text of subds 3 and 4, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1987 c 403 art 5 s 22]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1987 c 403 art 5 s 22]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1987 c 403 art 5 s 22]

Subd. 8. **Payment for persons with special needs.** The commissioner shall establish by December 31, 1983, procedures to be followed by the counties to seek authorization from the commissioner for medical assistance reimbursement for very dependent persons with special needs in an amount in excess of the rates allowed pursuant to subdivisions 2 and 4, including rates established under section 252.46 when they apply to services provided to residents of intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation or related conditions, and procedures to be followed for rate limitation exemptions for intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation or related conditions. No excess payment or limitation exemption shall be authorized unless the need for the service is documented in the individual service plan of the person or persons to be served, the type and duration of the services needed are stated, and there is a basis for estimated cost of the services.

The commissioner shall evaluate the services provided pursuant to this subdivision through program and fiscal audits.

Subd. 9. [Repealed, 1987 c 403 art 5 s 22]

[For text of subd 10, see M.S.1986]

History: *1987 c 403 art 5 s 17-19*

256B.69 PREPAYMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

[For text of subds 1 to 5, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 6. **Service delivery.** (a) Each demonstration provider shall be responsible for the health care coordination for eligible individuals. Demonstration providers:

(1) shall authorize and arrange for the provision of all needed health services including but not limited to the full range of services listed in section 256B.02, subdivision 8, in order to ensure appropriate health care is delivered to enrollees;

(2) shall accept the prospective, per capita payment from the commissioner in return for the provision of comprehensive and coordinated health care services for eligible individuals enrolled in the program;

(3) may contract with other health care and social service practitioners to provide services to enrollees; and

(4) shall institute recipient grievance procedures according to the method established by the project, utilizing applicable requirements of chapter 62D. Disputes not

resolved through this process shall be appealable to the commissioner as provided in subdivision 11.

(b) Demonstration providers must comply with the standards for claims settlement under section 72A.201, subdivisions 4, 5, 7, and 8, when contracting with other health care and social service practitioners to provide services to enrollees. A demonstration provider must pay a clean claim, as defined in Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 447.45(d), within 30 business days of the date of acceptance of the claim.

[For text of subds 7 to 10, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 11. **Appeals.** A recipient may appeal to the commissioner a demonstration provider's delay or refusal to provide services. The commissioner shall appoint a panel of health practitioners, including social service practitioners, as necessary to determine the necessity of services provided or refused to a recipient. The deliberations and decisions of the panel replace the administrative review process otherwise available under chapter 256. The panel shall follow the time requirements and other provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, sections 431.200 to 431.246. The time requirements shall be expedited based on request by the individual who is appealing for emergency services. If a service is determined to be necessary and is included among the benefits for which a recipient is enrolled, the service must be provided by the demonstration provider as specified in subdivision 5. The panel's decision is a final agency action.

Subd. 12. **Judicial review.** A party aggrieved by an order of the panel may appeal the order to the district court of the county responsible for furnishing assistance by serving a written copy of a notice of appeal upon the commissioner and any adverse party of record within 30 days after the date the panel issued the order and by filing the original notice and proof of service with the court administrator of the district court. Service may be made personally or by mail. Service by mail is complete upon mailing. No filing fee shall be required by the court administrator in appeals taken under this subdivision. The commissioner may elect to become a party to the proceedings in the district court. Any party may demand that the commissioner furnish all parties to the proceedings with a copy of the decision, and a transcript of any testimony, evidence, or other supporting papers from the hearing held before the panel, by serving a written demand on the commissioner within 30 days after service of the notice of appeal.

Subd. 13. **Hearing.** A party may obtain a hearing at a special term of the district court by serving a written notice of the time and place of the hearing at least ten days before the date of the hearing. The court may consider the matter in or out of chambers and shall take no new or additional evidence unless it determines that the evidence is necessary for a more equitable disposition of the appeal.

Subd. 14. **Appeal.** A party aggrieved by the order of the district court may appeal the order as in other civil cases. No costs or disbursements shall be taxed against a party nor shall any filing fee or bond be required of a party.

Subd. 15. **Payments pending appeal.** If the panel or district court orders services paid or provided in any proceeding under this section, it must be paid or provided pending appeal to the district court, court of appeals, or supreme court.

Subd. 16. **Project extension.** Minnesota Rules, parts 9550.1450; 9500.1451; 9500.1452; 9500.1453; 9500.1454; 9500.1455; 9500.1456; 9500.1457; 9500.1458; 9500.1459; 9500.1460; 9500.1461; 9500.1462; 9500.1463; and 9500.1464 are extended until December 31, 1990.

History: *1987 c 403 art 2 s 95-101*

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR UNINSURED LOW-INCOME PERSONS

256B.73 DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR UNINSURED LOW-INCOME PERSONS.

Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** The purpose of the demonstration project is to determine the need for and the feasibility of establishing a statewide program of medical insurance for uninsured low-income persons.

Subd. 2. **Establishment: geographic area.** The commissioner of human services shall establish a demonstration project to provide low cost medical insurance to uninsured low income persons in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Carlton, Aitkin, Pine, Itasca, and Koochiching counties except an individual county may be excluded as determined by the county board of commissioners.

Subd. 3. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given:

(1) "commissioner" means the commissioner of human services;

(2) "coalition" means an organization comprised of members representative of small business, health care providers, county social service departments, health consumer groups, and the health industry, established to serve the purposes of this demonstration;

(3) "demonstration provider" means a Minnesota corporation regulated under chapter 62A, 62C, or 62D;

(4) "individual provider" means a medical provider under contract to the demonstration provider to provide medical care to enrollees; and

(5) "enrollee" means a person eligible to receive coverage according to subdivision 4.

Subd. 4. **Enrollee eligibility requirements.** To be eligible for participation in the demonstration project, an enrollee must:

(1) not be eligible for Medicare, medical assistance, or general assistance medical care;

(2) have an income not more than 200 percent of the Minnesota income standards by family size used in the aid to families with dependent children program; and

(3) have no medical insurance or health benefits plan available through employment or other means that would provide coverage for the same medical services as provided by this demonstration.

Subd. 5. **Enrollee benefits.** Eligible persons enrolled by a demonstration provider shall receive a health services benefit package that includes health services which the enrollees might reasonably require to be maintained in good health, including emergency care, inpatient hospital and physician care, outpatient health services, and preventive health services, except that services related to chemical dependency, mental illness, vision care, dental care, and other benefits may be excluded or limited upon approval by the commissioner. The commissioner, the coalition, and demonstration providers shall work together to design a package of benefits or packages or benefits that can be provided to enrollees for an affordable monthly premium.

Subd. 6. **Enrollee participation.** An enrollee is not required to furnish evidence of good health. The demonstration provider shall accept all persons applying for coverage who meet the criteria in subdivision 4, subject to the following provisions:

(a) Enrollees will be required to pay a sliding fee on a monthly basis for health coverage through the demonstration project. Except for any required copayments, the sliding fee should be considered payment in full for the coverage provided. The sliding fee shall be based on the enrollee's income and shall not exceed 50 percent of the rate that would be paid to a prepaid plan serving general assistance medical care recipients in the same geographic area.

(b) The demonstration provider may terminate the coverage for an enrollee who has not made payment within the first ten calendar days of the month for which

coverage is being purchased. The termination for nonpayment shall be retroactive to the first day of the month for which no payment has been made by the enrollee.

(c) An enrollee who either requests termination of coverage under the demonstration or who allows coverage to terminate due to nonpayment of the required monthly fee may be required to furnish evidence of good health prior to being reinstated in the demonstration. As an alternative to evidence of good health, the enrollee may furnish evidence of having been eligible for health care services under a plan with similar benefits.

(d) The demonstration provider shall establish limits of enrollment which allow for a sufficient number of enrollees to constitute a reasonable demonstration project. These limits shall be established by county within the project area.

Subd. 7. **Contract with demonstration provider.** The commissioner shall contract with the demonstration provider for the duration of the project. This contract shall be for 24 months with an option to renew for no more than 12 months. This contract may be canceled without cause by the commissioner upon 90 days' written notice to the demonstration provider or by the demonstration provider with 90 days' written notice to the commissioner. The commissioner shall assure the cooperation of the county human services or social services staff in all counties participating in the project.

Subd. 8. **Medical assistance and general assistance medical care coordination.** To assure enrollees of uninterrupted delivery of health care services, the commissioner may pay the premium to the demonstration provider for persons who become eligible for medical assistance or general assistance medical care. To determine eligibility for medical assistance, any medical expenses for eligible services incurred by the demonstration provider shall be considered as evidence of satisfying the medical expense requirements of section 256B.06, subdivision 1, paragraphs (14) and (15). To determine eligibility for general assistance medical care, any medical expenses for eligible services incurred by the demonstration provider shall be considered as evidence of satisfying the medical expense requirements of section 256D.03, subdivision 3.

Subd. 9. **Waiver required.** No part of the demonstration project shall become operational until waivers of appropriate federal regulation are obtained from the health care financing administration.

Subd. 10. **Coordination of demonstration with region.** The commissioner shall consult with a health insurance coalition formed locally with members from the demonstration area. This coalition will work with the commissioner and potential demonstration providers as well as other private and public organizations to suggest program design, to secure additional funding support, and to ensure the program's local applicability.

History: *1987 c 337 s 123*

NOTE: This section, as added by Laws 1987, chapter 337, section 123, is repealed effective July 1, 1988, if the project implementation has not begun by that date. See Laws 1987, chapter 337, section 131.