

Maryland Health Care Commission



Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund

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Purpose

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The Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund reimburses:

- **Trauma physicians for care rendered to patients that are uninsured; and**
- **Offsets trauma centers' costs for physicians on-call at the centers**

FY 2013

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- **The Fund received \$11.6 million from the \$5 registration fees collected by MVA in FY 2013**
- **The Fund expended:**
 - **\$4.8 million in uncompensated care**
 - **\$6.3 million in on call and stand-by stipends**
 - **\$198,400 to Medicaid**
 - **\$300,000 in Administrative Expenses**
- **The 8% reduction in payments effective July 1, 2009 remains in effect, with the exception of Medicaid**

FY 2013

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- **In 2012, the Office of Legislative Audits found that MHCC did not require its contractor to confirm that trauma patients were listed on the Trauma Registry and that some claims were not eligible for reimbursement. The auditor recommended that MHCC recoup the ineligible funds paid.**

- **To date, Commission staff have not found any evidence of fraudulent claims; and have:**
 - ✦ **Required that CoreSource confirm that all Trauma Fund patients are listed on the Trauma Registry;**
 - ✦ **Notified Trauma Fund physicians regarding the process for recouping all payments made for those patients not listed on the Registry; and**
 - ✦ **Continued to work with MIEMSS staff and physicians' billing representatives to identify all claims paid for services rendered to patients not found on the Trauma Registry**

FY 2013

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• Recommendations

- ✦ **Establish a clear priority for sequencing payments. Further delineating priorities would be expanded to specify, for example, that uncompensated care be financed before on call payments were made. Limited flexibility further delineates already defined priorities. Difficult for priorities to change, as importance is established in the statute.**
- ✦ **Do not pay for certain types of trauma services, such as those that do not lead to a hospital admission. Historically, the Trauma Fund has reimbursed for any trauma-related service under the theory that physicians are eligible for uncompensated care any time the trauma team is activated and a patient is seen. Given the Fund shortfall, low severity cases limited to evaluations and consultations would not be covered. The financial burden of this change would fall heaviest on emergency medicine physicians, as that specialty is most frequently involved in the initial patient assessments. This alternative shifts the focus from providers to patients. Low intensity patients are not covered.**
- ✦ **Establish a timeframe for eligibility of uncompensated care reimbursement. Limit the look-back period for claims eligibility. Currently, MHCC does not limit the look-back period for uncompensated care trauma services. Recently, we identified claims for trauma services that were submitted more than five years after the initial trauma event. Permits MIEMSS Trauma Registry validation to be restricted to a three year time horizon.**

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- **Questions?**
- **Contact us:**
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