

INFORMATION ON PARTICIPATION IN THE HEALTH CARE RESPONSIBILITY ACT (HCRA)

The Bureau of Certificate of Need/Financial Analysis has determined that your hospital has met the two percent charity care requirement and is potentially eligible to participate in the Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA) for the upcoming county fiscal year (October 1 through September 30). HCRA is a program that obligates counties to reimburse out-of-county hospitals for emergency care provided to their indigent residents. Counties are obligated to reimburse such out-of-county hospitals at the Medicaid rate to a maximum of \$4 per capita (county population). An information sheet regarding the HCRA is enclosed for your review.

In addition to the two percent charity care criterion, your hospital must satisfy either one of the following in order to participate in the HCRA for the upcoming county fiscal year.

1. Have a current, signed agreement with the patient's county of residence (a sample agreement is enclosed) or,
2. Demonstrate to the Bureau of Certificate of Need/Financial Analysis that at least 2.5% of the hospital's previous fiscal year charity care was for out-of-county indigent patients (see form enclosed).

If you choose to have your hospital participate in the HCRA by meeting the 2.5% out-of-county charity care criterion rather than through a negotiated agreement with each county, you must submit the enclosed form (appendix D) directly to the Bureau of Certificate of Need/Financial Analysis. Please return the form to Mr. Paul Kennedy at the address provided on the form within fifteen days of receiving this notice.

Should you choose to use negotiated agreements with counties to provide emergency services to residents through HCRA, please send a copy of that agreement to: Hazel Greenberg, Managed Health Care, 2727 Mahan Drive, Mail Stop Code 26, Tallahassee, FL 32317-2800, within thirty days of its being signed. These agreements are especially important to hospitals that have not met the 2.5% obligation, but who provide significant emergency care to out-of-county residents.

Please feel free to contact Ms. Hazel Greenberg at (850) 414-9444 if you have any questions regarding your hospital's participation in the HCRA. If you have questions regarding completion of the out-of-county charity care form, please contact Mr. Paul Kennedy at (850) 488-8672.