

Glossary of Terms

Health Affairs Committee Meeting

CMS: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services – a federal agency within the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that administers the Medicare program and works in partnership with state governments to administer Medicaid, the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and health insurance portability standards.

HHSC: Texas Health and Human Services Commission – the Texas health and human services system includes five agencies, which operate under the oversight of the Health and Human Services Commission: the Health and Human Services Commission, the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Aging and Disability Services and the Department of State Health Services.

Medicaid: A jointly funded Federal and State program that serves primarily low-income families, non-disabled children, related caretakers of dependent children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. Medicaid is different in every state.

Medicare: A health insurance program administered by the United States government, it covers people who are aged 65 and over, under 65 with certain disabilities, and any age with End-Stage Renal Disease. Different parts of Medicare help cover specific services if you meet certain conditions.

DSH (disproportionate share payments): Both the Medicaid and Medicare programs have DSH provisions which provide additional federal funds for hospitals that serve large populations of low-income patients.

Medicaid UPL (upper payment limit): Various hospital and physician UPL programs provide additional federal funds to compensate the hospital or physician at a rate that exceeds the Medicaid payment rate.