S-3529.1

SENATE BILL 6677

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2002 Regular Session

By Senators Costa, Deccio, Haugen, Winsley and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/25/2002. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

AN ACT Relating to medicaid nursing home rates; and amending RCW 74.46.020, 74.46.410, 74.46.431, 74.46.433, 74.46.435, 74.46.437, 74.46.506, and 74.46.521.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

Sec. 1. RCW 74.46.020 and 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Accrual method of accounting" means a method of accounting in which revenues are reported in the period when they are earned, regardless of when they are collected, and expenses are reported in the period in which they are incurred, regardless of when they are paid.

(2) "Appraisal" means the process of estimating the fair market value or reconstructing the historical cost of an asset acquired in a past period as performed by a professionally designated real estate appraiser with no pecuniary interest in the property to be appraised. It includes a systematic, analytic determination and the recording and analyzing of property facts, rights, investments, and values based on a personal inspection and inventory of the property.

(3) "Arm's-length transaction" means a transaction resulting from good-faith bargaining between a buyer and seller who are not related organizations and have adverse positions in the market place. Sales or exchanges of nursing home facilities among two or more parties in which all parties subsequently continue to own one or more of the facilities involved in the transactions shall not be considered as arm's-length transactions for purposes of this chapter. Sale of a nursing home facility which is subsequently leased back to the seller within five years of the date of sale shall not be considered as an arm's-length transaction for purposes of this chapter.

(4) "Assets" means economic resources of the contractor, recognized and measured in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

(5) "Audit" or "department audit" means an examination of the records of a nursing facility participating in the medicaid payment system, including but not limited to: The contractor's financial and statistical records, cost reports and all supporting documentation and schedules, receivables, and resident trust funds, to be performed as deemed necessary by the department and according to department rule.

(6) "Bad debts" means amounts considered to be uncollectible from accounts and notes receivable.

(7) "Beneficial owner" means:

(a) Any person who, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise has or shares:

(i) Voting power which includes the power to vote, or to direct the voting of such ownership interest; and/or

(ii) Investment power which includes the power to dispose, or to direct the disposition of such ownership interest;

(b) Any person who, directly or indirectly, creates or uses a trust, proxy, power of attorney, pooling arrangement, or any other contract, arrangement, or device with the purpose or effect of divesting himself or herself of beneficial ownership of an ownership interest or preventing the vesting of such beneficial ownership as part of a plan or scheme to evade the reporting requirements of this chapter;

(c) Any person who, subject to (b) of this subsection, has the right to acquire beneficial ownership of such ownership interest within sixty days, including but not limited to any right to acquire:

(i) Through the exercise of any option, warrant, or right;

(ii) Through the conversion of an ownership interest;

(iii) Pursuant to the power to revoke a trust, discretionary account, or similar arrangement; or

(iv) Pursuant to the automatic termination of a trust, discretionary account, or similar arrangement;

except that, any person who acquires an ownership interest or power specified in (c)(i), (ii), or (iii) of this subsection with the purpose or effect of changing or influencing the control of the contractor, or in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect, immediately upon such acquisition shall be deemed to be the beneficial owner of the ownership interest which may be acquired through the exercise or conversion of such ownership interest or power;

(d) Any person who in the ordinary course of business is a pledgee of ownership interest under a written pledge agreement shall not be deemed to be the beneficial owner of such pledged ownership interest until the pledgee has taken all formal steps necessary which are required to declare a default and determines that the power to vote or to direct the vote or to dispose or to direct the disposition of such pledged ownership interest will be exercised; except that:

(i) The pledgee agreement is bona fide and was not entered into with the purpose nor with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the contractor, nor in connection with any transaction having such purpose or effect, including persons meeting the conditions set forth in (b) of this subsection; and

(ii) The pledgee agreement, prior to default, does not grant to the pledgee:

(A) The power to vote or to direct the vote of the pledged ownership interest; or

(B) The power to dispose or direct the disposition of the pledged ownership interest, other than the grant of such power(s) pursuant to a pledge agreement under which credit is extended and in which the pledgee is a broker or dealer.

(8) "Capitalization" means the recording of an expenditure as an asset.

(9) "Case mix" means a measure of the intensity of care and services needed by the residents of a nursing facility or a group of residents in the facility.

(10) "Case mix index" means a number representing the average case mix of a nursing facility.

(11) "Case mix weight" means a numeric score that identifies the relative resources used by a particular group of a nursing facility's residents.

(12) "Certificate of capital authorization" means a certification from the department for an allocation from the biennial capital financing authorization for all new or replacement building construction, or for major renovation projects, receiving a certificate of need or a certificate of need exemption under chapter 70.38 RCW after July 1, 2001.

(13) "Contractor" means a person or entity licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW to operate a medicare and medicaid certified nursing facility, responsible for operational decisions, and contracting with the department to provide services to medicaid recipients residing in the facility.

(14) "Default case" means no initial assessment has been completed for a resident and transmitted to the department by the cut-off date, or an assessment is otherwise past due for the resident, under state and federal requirements.

(15) "Department" means the department of social and health services (DSHS) and its employees.

(16) "Depreciation" means the systematic distribution of the cost or other basis of tangible assets, less salvage, over the estimated useful life of the assets.

(17) "Direct care" means nursing care and related care provided to nursing facility residents. Therapy care shall not be considered part of direct care.

(18) "Direct care supplies" means medical, pharmaceutical, and other supplies required for the direct care of a nursing facility's residents.

(19) "Entity" means an individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or any other association of individuals capable of entering enforceable contracts.

(20) "Equity" means the net book value of all tangible and intangible assets less the recorded value of all liabilities, as recognized and measured in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

(21) ((~~"Essential community provider" means a facility which is the only nursing facility within a commuting distance radius of at least forty minutes duration, traveling by automobile.~~

((~~(22)~~)) "Facility" or "nursing facility" means a nursing home licensed in accordance with chapter 18.51 RCW, excepting nursing homes certified as institutions for mental diseases, or that portion of a multiservice facility licensed as a nursing home, or that portion of a hospital licensed in accordance with chapter 70.41 RCW which operates as a nursing home.

((~~(23)~~)) (22) "Fair market value" means the replacement cost of an asset less observed physical depreciation on the date for which the market value is being determined.

((~~(24)~~)) (23) "Financial statements" means statements prepared and presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles including, but not limited to, balance sheet, statement of operations, statement of changes in financial position, and related notes.

((~~(25)~~)) (24) "Generally accepted accounting principles" means accounting principles approved by the financial accounting standards board (FASB).

((~~(26)~~)) (25) "Goodwill" means the excess of the price paid for a nursing facility business over the fair market value of all net identifiable tangible and intangible assets acquired, as measured in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

((~~(27)~~)) (26) "Grouper" means a computer software product that groups individual nursing facility residents into case mix classification groups based on specific resident assessment data and computer logic.

((~~(28)~~)) (27) "High labor-cost county" means an urban county in which the median allowable facility cost per case mix unit is more than ten percent higher than the median allowable facility cost per case mix unit among all other urban counties, excluding that county.

((~~(29)~~)) (28) "Historical cost" means the actual cost incurred in acquiring and preparing an asset for use, including feasibility studies, architect’s fees, and engineering studies.

((~~(30)~~)) (29) "Home and central office costs" means costs that are incurred in the support and operation of a home and central office. Home and central office costs include centralized services that are performed in support of a nursing facility. The department may exclude from this definition costs that are nonduplicative, documented, ordinary, necessary, and related to the provision of care services to authorized patients.

((~~(31)~~)) (30) "Imprest fund" means a fund which is regularly replenished in exactly the amount expended from it.

((~~(32)~~)) (31) "Joint facility costs" means any costs which represent resources which benefit more than one facility, or one facility and any other entity.

((~~(33)~~)) (32) "Lease agreement" means a contract between two parties for the possession and use of real or personal property or assets for a specified period of time in exchange for specified periodic payments. Elimination (due to any cause other than death or divorce) or addition of any party to the contract, expiration, or modification of any lease term in effect on January 1, 1980, or termination of the lease by either party by any means shall constitute a termination of the lease agreement. An extension or renewal of a lease agreement, whether or not pursuant to a renewal provision in the lease agreement, shall be considered a new lease agreement. A strictly formal change in the lease agreement which modifies the method, frequency, or manner in which the lease payments are made, but does not increase the total lease payment obligation of the lessee, shall not be considered modification of a lease term.

((~~(34)~~)) (33) "Medical care program" or "medicaid program" means medical assistance, including nursing care, provided under RCW 74.09.500 or authorized state medical care services.

((~~(35)~~)) (34) "Medical care recipient," "medicaid recipient," or "recipient" means an individual determined eligible by the department for the services provided under chapter 74.09 RCW.

((~~(36)~~)) (35) "Minimum data set" means the overall data component of the resident assessment instrument, indicating the strengths, needs, and preferences of an individual nursing facility resident.

((~~(37)~~)) (36) "Net book value" means the historical cost of an asset less accumulated depreciation.

((~~(38)~~)) (37) "Net invested funds" means the net book value of tangible fixed assets employed by a contractor to provide services under the medical care program, including land, buildings, and equipment as recognized and measured in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

((~~(39)~~)) (38) "Nonurban county" means a county which is not located in a metropolitan statistical area as determined and defined by the United States office of management and budget or other appropriate agency or office of the federal government.

((~~(40)~~)) (39) "Operating lease" means a lease under which rental or lease expenses are included in current expenses in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

((~~(41)~~)) (40) "Owner" means a sole proprietor, general or limited partners, members of a limited liability company, and beneficial interest holders of five percent or more of a corporation's outstanding stock.

((~~(42)~~)) (41) "Ownership interest" means all interests beneficially owned by a person, calculated in the aggregate, regardless of the form which such beneficial ownership takes.

((~~(43)~~)) (42) "Patient day" or "resident day" means a calendar day of care provided to a nursing facility resident, regardless of payment source, which will include the day of admission and exclude the day of discharge; except that, when admission and discharge occur on the same day, one day of care shall be deemed to exist. A "medicaid day" or "recipient day" means a calendar day of care provided to a medicaid recipient determined eligible by the department for services provided under chapter 74.09 RCW, subject to the same conditions regarding admission and discharge applicable to a patient day or resident day of care.

((~~(44)~~)) (43) "Professionally designated real estate appraiser" means an individual who is regularly engaged in the business of providing real estate valuation services for a fee, and who is deemed qualified by a nationally recognized real estate appraisal educational organization on the basis of extensive practical appraisal experience, including the writing of real estate valuation reports as well as the passing of written examinations on valuation practice and theory, and who by virtue of membership in such organization is required to subscribe and adhere to certain standards of professional practice as such organization prescribes.

((~~(45)~~)) (44) "Qualified therapist" means:

(a) A mental health professional as defined by chapter 71.05 RCW;

(b) A mental retardation professional who is a therapist approved by the department who has had specialized training or one year's experience in treating or working with the mentally retarded or developmentally disabled;

(c) A speech pathologist who is eligible for a certificate of clinical competence in speech pathology or who has the equivalent education and clinical experience;

(d) A physical therapist as defined by chapter 18.74 RCW;

(e) An occupational therapist who is a graduate of a program in occupational therapy, or who has the equivalent of such education or training; and

(f) A respiratory care practitioner certified under chapter 18.89 RCW.

((~~(46)~~)) (45) "Rate" or "rate allocation" means the medicaid per-patient-day payment amount for medicaid patients calculated in accordance with the allocation methodology set forth in part E of this chapter.

((~~(47)~~)) (46) "Real property," whether leased or owned by the contractor, means the building, allowable land, land improvements, and building improvements associated with a nursing facility.

((~~(48)~~)) (47) "Rebased rate" or "cost-rebased rate" means a facility-specific component rate assigned to a nursing facility for a particular rate period established on desk-reviewed, adjusted costs reported for that facility covering at least six months of a prior calendar year designated as a year to be used for cost-rebasing payment rate allocations under the provisions of this chapter.

((~~(49)~~)) (48) "Records" means those data supporting all financial statements and cost reports including, but not limited to, all general and subsidiary ledgers, books of original entry, and transaction documentation, however such data are maintained.

((~~(50)~~)) (49) "Related organization" means an entity which is under common ownership and/or control with, or has control of, or is controlled by, the contractor.

(a) "Common ownership" exists when an entity is the beneficial owner of five percent or more ownership interest in the contractor and any other entity.

(b) "Control" exists where an entity has the power, directly or indirectly, significantly to influence or direct the actions or policies of an organization or institution, whether or not it is legally enforceable and however it is exercisable or exercised.

((~~(51)~~)) (50) "Related care" means only those services that are directly related to providing direct care to nursing facility residents. These services include, but are not limited to, nursing direction and supervision, medical direction, medical records, pharmacy services, activities, and social services.

((~~(52)~~)) (51) "Resident assessment instrument," including federally approved modifications for use in this state, means a federally mandated, comprehensive nursing facility resident care planning and assessment tool, consisting of the minimum data set and resident assessment protocols.

((~~(53)~~)) (52) "Resident assessment protocols" means those components of the resident assessment instrument that use the minimum data set to trigger or flag a resident's potential problems and risk areas.

((~~(54)~~)) (53) "Resource utilization groups" means a case mix classification system that identifies relative resources needed to care for an individual nursing facility resident.

((~~(55)~~)) (54) "Restricted fund" means those funds the principal and/or income of which is limited by agreement with or direction of the donor to a specific purpose.

((~~(56)~~)) (55) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of social and health services.

((~~(57)~~)) (56) "Support services" means food, food preparation, dietary, housekeeping, and laundry services provided to nursing facility residents.

((~~(58)~~)) (57) "Therapy care" means those services required by a nursing facility resident's comprehensive assessment and plan of care, that are provided by qualified therapists, or support personnel under their supervision, including related costs as designated by the department.

((~~(59)~~)) (58) "Title XIX" or "medicaid" means the 1965 amendments to the social security act, P.L. 89-07, as amended and the medicaid program administered by the department.

((~~(60)~~)) (59) "Urban county" means a county which is located in a metropolitan statistical area as determined and defined by the United States office of management and budget or other appropriate agency or office of the federal government.

Sec. 2. RCW 74.46.410 and 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Costs will be unallowable if they are not documented, necessary, ordinary, and related to the provision of care services to authorized patients.

(2) Unallowable costs include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Costs of items or services not covered by the medical care program. Costs of such items or services will be unallowable even if they are indirectly reimbursed by the department as the result of an authorized reduction in patient contribution;

(b) Costs of services and items provided to recipients which are covered by the department's medical care program but not included in the medicaid per-resident day payment rate established by the department under this chapter;

(c) Costs associated with a capital expenditure subject to section 1122 approval (part 100, Title 42 C.F.R.) if the department found it was not consistent with applicable standards, criteria, or plans. If the department was not given timely notice of a proposed capital expenditure, all associated costs will be unallowable up to the date they are determined to be reimbursable under applicable federal regulations;

(d) Costs associated with a construction or acquisition project requiring certificate of need approval, or exemption from the requirements for certificate of need for the replacement of existing nursing home beds, pursuant to chapter 70.38 RCW if such approval or exemption was not obtained;

(e) Interest costs other than those provided by RCW 74.46.290 on and after January 1, 1985;

(f) Salaries or other compensation of owners, officers, directors, stockholders, partners, principals, participants, and others associated with the contractor or its home office, including all board of directors' fees for any purpose, except reasonable compensation paid for service related to patient care;

(g) Costs in excess of limits or in violation of principles set forth in this chapter;

(h) Costs resulting from transactions or the application of accounting methods which circumvent the principles of the payment system set forth in this chapter;

(i) Costs applicable to services, facilities, and supplies furnished by a related organization in excess of the lower of the cost to the related organization or the price of comparable services, facilities, or supplies purchased elsewhere;

(j) Bad debts of non-Title XIX recipients. Bad debts of Title XIX recipients are allowable if the debt is related to covered services, it arises from the recipient's required contribution toward the cost of care, the provider can establish that reasonable collection efforts were made, the debt was actually uncollectible when claimed as worthless, and sound business judgment established that there was no likelihood of recovery at any time in the future;

(k) Charity and courtesy allowances;

(l) Cash, assessments, or other contributions, excluding dues, to charitable organizations, professional organizations, trade associations, or political parties, and costs incurred to improve community or public relations;

(m) Vending machine expenses;

(n) Expenses for barber or beautician services not included in routine care;

(o) Funeral and burial expenses;

(p) Costs of gift shop operations and inventory;

(q) Personal items such as cosmetics, smoking materials, newspapers and magazines, and clothing, except those used in patient activity programs;

(r) Fund-raising expenses, except those directly related to the patient activity program;

(s) Penalties and fines;

(t) Expenses related to telephones, radios, and similar appliances in patients' private accommodations;

(u) Televisions acquired prior to July 1, 2001;

(v) Federal, state, and other income taxes;

(w) Costs of special care services except where authorized by the department;

(x) Expenses of an employee benefit not in fact made available to all employees on an equal or fair basis, for example, key-man insurance and other insurance or retirement plans;

(y) Expenses of profit-sharing plans;

(z) Expenses related to the purchase and/or use of private or commercial airplanes which are in excess of what a prudent contractor would expend for the ordinary and economic provision of such a transportation need related to patient care;

(aa) Personal expenses and allowances of owners or relatives;

(bb) All expenses of maintaining professional licenses or membership in professional organizations;

(cc) Costs related to agreements not to compete;

(dd) Amortization of goodwill, lease acquisition, or any other intangible asset, whether related to resident care or not, and whether recognized under generally accepted accounting principles or not;

(ee) Expenses related to vehicles which are in excess of what a prudent contractor would expend for the ordinary and economic provision of transportation needs related to patient care;

(ff) Legal and consultant fees in connection with a fair hearing against the department where a decision is rendered in favor of the department or where otherwise the determination of the department stands;

(gg) Legal and consultant fees of a contractor or contractors in connection with a lawsuit against the department;

(hh) Lease acquisition costs, goodwill, the cost of bed rights, or any other intangible assets;

(ii) ((~~All rental or lease costs other than those provided in RCW 74.46.300 on and after January 1, 1985;~~

~~(jj)~~)) Postsurvey charges incurred by the facility as a result of subsequent inspections under RCW 18.51.050 which occur beyond the first postsurvey visit during the certification survey calendar year;

((~~(kk)~~)) (jj) Compensation paid for any purchased nursing care services, including registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, and nurse assistant services, obtained through service contract arrangement in excess of the amount of compensation paid for such hours of nursing care service had they been paid at the average hourly wage, including related taxes and benefits, for in-house nursing care staff of like classification at the same nursing facility, as reported in the most recent cost report period;

((~~(ll)~~)) (kk) For all partial or whole rate periods after July 17, 1984, costs of land and depreciable assets that cannot be reimbursed under the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 and implementing state statutory and regulatory provisions;

((~~(mm)~~)) (ll) Costs reported by the contractor for a prior period to the extent such costs, due to statutory exemption, will not be incurred by the contractor in the period to be covered by the rate;

((~~(nn)~~)) (mm) Costs of outside activities, for example, costs allocated to the use of a vehicle for personal purposes or related to the part of a facility leased out for office space;

((~~(oo)~~)) (nn) Travel expenses outside the states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington and the province of British Columbia. However, travel to or from the home or central office of a chain organization operating a nursing facility is allowed whether inside or outside these areas if the travel is necessary, ordinary, and related to resident care;

((~~(pp)~~)) (oo) Moving expenses of employees in the absence of demonstrated, good-faith effort to recruit within the states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, and the province of British Columbia;

((~~(qq)~~)) (pp) Depreciation in excess of four thousand dollars per year for each passenger car or other vehicle primarily used by the administrator, facility staff, or central office staff;

((~~(rr)~~)) (qq) Costs for temporary health care personnel from a nursing pool not registered with the secretary of the department of health;

((~~(ss)~~)) (rr) Payroll taxes associated with compensation in excess of allowable compensation of owners, relatives, and administrative personnel;

((~~(tt)~~)) (ss) Costs and fees associated with filing a petition for bankruptcy;

((~~(uu)~~)) (tt) All advertising or promotional costs, except reasonable costs of help wanted advertising;

((~~(vv)~~)) (uu) Outside consultation expenses required to meet department-required minimum data set completion proficiency;

((~~(ww)~~)) (vv) Interest charges assessed by any department or agency of this state for failure to make a timely refund of overpayments and interest expenses incurred for loans obtained to make the refunds;

((~~(xx)~~)) (ww) All home office or central office costs, whether on or off the nursing facility premises, and whether allocated or not to specific services, in excess of the median of those adjusted costs for all facilities reporting such costs for the most recent report period; and

((~~(yy)~~)) (xx) Tax expenses that a nursing facility has never incurred.

Sec. 3. RCW 74.46.431 and 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 s 5 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Effective July 1, 1999, nursing facility medicaid payment rate allocations shall be facility-specific and shall have seven components: Direct care, therapy care, support services, operations, property, financing allowance, and variable return. The department shall establish and adjust each of these components, as provided in this section and elsewhere in this chapter, for each medicaid nursing facility in this state.

(2) All component rate allocations ((~~for essential community providers as defined in this chapter~~)) shall be based upon a minimum facility occupancy of eighty-five percent of licensed beds, regardless of how many beds are set up or in use. ((~~For all facilities other than essential community providers, effective July 1, 2001, component rate allocations in direct care, therapy care, support services, variable return, operations, property, and financing allowance shall continue to be based upon a minimum facility occupancy of eighty-five percent of licensed beds. For all facilities other than essential community providers, effective July 1, 2002, the component rate allocations in operations, property, and financing allowance shall be based upon a minimum facility occupancy of ninety percent of licensed beds, regardless of how many beds are set up or in use.~~))

(3) Information and data sources used in determining medicaid payment rate allocations, including formulas, procedures, cost report periods, resident assessment instrument formats, resident assessment methodologies, and resident classification and case mix weighting methodologies, may be substituted or altered from time to time as determined by the department.

(4)(a) Direct care component rate allocations shall be established using adjusted cost report data covering at least six months. Adjusted cost report data from 1996 will be used for October 1, 1998, through June 30, 2001, direct care component rate allocations; adjusted cost report data from 1999 will be used for July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2004, direct care component rate allocations.

(b) Direct care component rate allocations based on 1996 cost report data shall be adjusted annually for economic trends and conditions by a factor or factors defined in the biennial appropriations act. A different economic trends and conditions adjustment factor or factors may be defined in the biennial appropriations act for facilities whose direct care component rate is

set equal to their adjusted June 30, 1998, rate, as provided in RCW 74.46.506(5)(i).

(c) Direct care component rate allocations based on 1999 cost report data shall be adjusted annually for economic trends and conditions by a factor or factors defined in the biennial appropriations act. A different economic trends and conditions adjustment factor or factors may be defined in the biennial appropriations act for facilities whose direct care component rate is set equal to their adjusted June 30, 1998, rate, as provided in RCW 74.46.506(5)(i).

(5)(a) Therapy care component rate allocations shall be established using adjusted cost report data covering at least six months. Adjusted cost report data from 1996 will be used for October 1, 1998, through June 30, 2001, therapy care component rate allocations; adjusted cost report data from 1999 will be used for July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2004, therapy care component rate allocations.

(b) Therapy care component rate allocations shall be adjusted annually for economic trends and conditions by a factor or factors defined in the biennial appropriations act.

(6)(a) Support services component rate allocations shall be established using adjusted cost report data covering at least six months. Adjusted cost report data from 1996 shall be used for October 1, 1998, through June 30, 2001, support services component rate allocations; adjusted cost report data from 1999 shall be used for July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2004, support services component rate allocations.

(b) Support services component rate allocations shall be adjusted annually for economic trends and conditions by a factor or factors defined in the biennial appropriations act.

(7)(a) Operations component rate allocations shall be established using adjusted cost report data covering at least six months. Adjusted cost report data from 1996 shall be used for October 1, 1998, through June 30, 2001, operations component rate allocations; adjusted cost report data from 1999 shall be used for July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2004, operations component rate allocations.

(b) Operations component rate allocations shall be adjusted annually for economic trends and conditions by a factor or factors defined in the biennial appropriations act.

(8) For July 1, 1998, through September 30, 1998, a facility's property and return on investment component rates shall be the facility's June 30, 1998, property and return on investment component rates, without increase. For October 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999, a facility's property and return on investment component rates shall be rebased utilizing 1997 adjusted cost report data covering at least six months of data.

(9) Total payment rates under the nursing facility medicaid payment system shall not exceed facility rates charged to the general public for comparable services.

(10) Medicaid contractors shall pay to all facility staff a minimum wage of the greater of the state minimum wage or the federal minimum wage.

(11) The department shall establish in rule procedures, principles, and conditions for determining component rate allocations for facilities in circumstances not directly addressed by this chapter, including but not limited to: The need to prorate inflation for partial-period cost report data, newly constructed facilities, existing facilities entering the medicaid program for the first time or after a period of absence from the program, existing facilities with expanded new bed capacity, existing medicaid facilities following a change of ownership of the nursing facility business, facilities banking beds or converting beds back into service, facilities temporarily reducing the number of set-up beds during a remodel, facilities having less than six months of either resident assessment, cost report data, or both, under the current contractor prior to rate setting, and other circumstances.

(12) The department shall establish in rule procedures, principles, and conditions, including necessary threshold costs, for adjusting rates to reflect capital improvements or new requirements imposed by the department or the federal government. Any such rate adjustments are subject to the provisions of RCW 74.46.421.

(13) ((~~Effective July 1, 2001, medicaid rates shall continue to be revised downward in all components, in accordance with department rules, for facilities converting banked beds to active service under chapter 70.38 RCW, by using the facility's increased licensed bed capacity to recalculate minimum occupancy for rate setting. However, for facilities other than essential community providers which bank beds under chapter 70.38 RCW, after May 25, 2001, medicaid rates shall be revised upward, in accordance with department rules, in direct care,~~

~~therapy care, support services, and variable return components only, by using the facility's decreased licensed bed capacity to recalculate minimum occupancy for rate setting, but no upward revision shall be made to operations, property, or financing allowance component rates.~~

~~(14)~~)) Facilities obtaining a certificate of need or a certificate of need exemption under chapter 70.38 RCW after June 30, 2001, must have a certificate of capital authorization in order for (a) the depreciation resulting from the capitalized addition to be included in calculation of the facility's property component rate allocation; and (b) the net invested funds associated with the capitalized addition to be included in calculation of the facility's financing allowance rate allocation.

Sec. 4. RCW 74.46.433 and 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The department shall establish for each medicaid nursing facility a variable return component rate allocation. In determining the variable return allowance:

(a) The variable return array and percentage shall be assigned whenever rebasing of noncapital rate allocations is scheduled under RCW ((~~46.46.431 [74.46.431]~~)) 74.46.431 (4), (5), (6), and (7).

(b) To calculate the array of facilities for the July 1, 2001, rate setting, the department, without using peer groups, shall first rank all facilities in numerical order from highest to lowest according to each facility's examined and documented, but unlidded, combined direct care, therapy care, support services, and operations per resident day cost from the 1999 cost report period. However, before being combined with other per resident day costs and ranked, a facility's direct care cost per resident day shall be adjusted to reflect its facility average case mix index, to be averaged from the four calendar quarters of 1999, weighted by the facility's resident days from each quarter, under RCW 74.46.501(7)(b)(ii). The array shall then be divided into four quartiles, each containing, as nearly as possible, an equal number of facilities, and four percent shall be assigned to facilities in the lowest quartile, three percent to facilities in the next lowest quartile, two percent to facilities in the next highest quartile, and one percent to facilities in the highest quartile.

(c) The department shall((~~, subject to (d) of this subsection,~~)) compute the variable return allowance by multiplying a facility's

assigned percentage by the sum of the facility's direct care, therapy care, support services, and operations component rates determined in accordance with this chapter and rules adopted by the department.

((~~(d) Effective July 1, 2001, if a facility's examined and documented direct care cost per resident day for the preceding report year is lower than its average direct care component rate weighted by medicaid resident days for the same year, the facility's direct care cost shall be substituted for its July 1, 2001, direct care component rate, and its variable return component rate shall be determined or adjusted each July 1st by multiplying the facility's assigned percentage by the sum of the facility's July 1, 2001, therapy care, support services, and operations component rates, and its direct care cost per resident day for the preceding year.~~))

(2) The variable return rate allocation calculated in accordance with this section shall be adjusted to the extent necessary to comply with RCW 74.46.421.

Sec. 5. RCW 74.46.435 and 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) ((~~Effective July 1, 2001,~~)) T<u></u>he property component rate allocation for each facility shall be determined by dividing the sum of the reported allowable prior period actual depreciation, subject to RCW 74.46.310 through 74.46.380, adjusted for any capitalized additions or replacements approved by the department, and the retained savings from such cost center, by the greater of a facility's total resident days for the facility in the prior period or resident days as calculated on eighty-five percent facility occupancy. ((~~Effective July 1, 2002, the property component rate allocation for all facilities, except essential community providers, shall be set by using the greater of a facility's total resident days from the most recent cost report period or resident days calculated at ninety percent facility occupancy.~~)) If a capitalized addition or retirement of an asset will result in a different licensed bed capacity during the ensuing period, the prior period total resident days used in computing the property component rate shall be adjusted to anticipated resident day level.

(2) A nursing facility's property component rate allocation shall be rebased annually, effective July 1st, in accordance with this section and this chapter.

(3) When a certificate of need for a new facility is requested, the department, in reaching its decision, shall take into consideration per-bed land and building construction costs for the facility which shall not exceed a maximum to be established by the secretary.

(4) ((~~Effective July 1, 2001,~~)) For the purpose of calculating a nursing facility's property component rate, if a contractor ((~~has elected~~)) elects to bank licensed beds prior to April 1, 2001, or elects to convert banked beds to active service at any time, under chapter 70.38 RCW, the department shall use the facility's ((~~new licensed bed capacity to recalculate minimum occupancy for rate setting and revise the property component rate, as needed, effective as of the date the beds are banked or converted to active service~~)) anticipated resident occupancy level subsequent to the decrease or increase in licensed bed capacity. However, in no case shall the department use less than eighty-five percent occupancy of the facility's licensed bed capacity after banking or conversion. ((~~Effective July 1, 2002, in no case, other than essential community providers, shall the department use less than ninety percent occupancy of the facility's licensed bed capacity after conversion.~~))

(5) The property component rate allocations calculated in accordance with this section shall be adjusted to the extent necessary to comply with RCW 74.46.421.

Sec. 6. RCW 74.46.437 and 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 s 8 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Beginning July 1, 1999, the department shall establish for each medicaid nursing facility a financing allowance component rate allocation. The financing allowance component rate shall be rebased annually, effective July 1st, in accordance with the provisions of this section and this chapter.

(2) ((~~Effective July 1, 2001,~~)) The financing allowance shall be determined by multiplying the net invested funds of each facility by .10, and dividing by the greater of a nursing facility's total resident days from the most recent cost report period or resident days calculated on eighty-five percent facility occupancy. ((~~Effective July 1, 2002, the financing allowance component rate allocation for all facilities, other than essential community providers, shall be set by using the greater of a facility's total resident days from the most recent cost report period or resident days calculated at ninety percent~~

~~facility occupancy.~~)) However, assets acquired on or after May 17, 1999, shall be grouped in a separate financing allowance calculation that shall be multiplied by .085. The financing allowance factor of .085 shall not be applied to the net invested funds pertaining to new construction or major renovations receiving certificate of need approval or an exemption from certificate of need requirements under chapter 70.38 RCW, or to working drawings that have been submitted to the department of health for construction review approval, prior to May 17, 1999. If a capitalized addition, renovation, replacement, or retirement of an asset will result in a different licensed bed capacity during the ensuing period, the prior period total resident days used in computing the financing allowance shall be adjusted to the greater of the anticipated resident day level or eighty-five percent of the new licensed bed capacity. ((~~Effective July 1, 2002, for all facilities, other than essential community providers, the total resident days used to compute the financing allowance after a capitalized addition, renovation, replacement, or retirement of an asset shall be set by using the greater of a facility's total resident days from the most recent cost report period or resident days calculated at ninety percent facility occupancy.~~))

(3) In computing the portion of net invested funds representing the net book value of tangible fixed assets, the same assets, depreciation bases, lives, and methods referred to in RCW 74.46.330, 74.46.350, 74.46.360, 74.46.370, and 74.46.380, including owned and leased assets, shall be utilized, except that the capitalized cost of land upon which the facility is located and such other contiguous land which is reasonable and necessary for use in the regular course of providing resident care shall also be included. Subject to provisions and limitations contained in this chapter, for land purchased by owners or lessors before July 18, 1984, capitalized cost of land shall be the buyer's capitalized cost. For all partial or whole rate periods after July 17, 1984, if the land is purchased after July 17, 1984, capitalized cost shall be that of the owner of record on July 17, 1984, or buyer's capitalized cost, whichever is lower. In the case of leased facilities where the net invested funds are unknown or the contractor is unable to provide necessary information to determine net invested funds, the secretary shall have the authority to determine an amount for net invested funds based on an appraisal conducted according to RCW 74.46.360(1).

(4) ((~~Effective July 1, 2001,~~)) Eor the purpose of calculating a nursing facility's financing allowance component rate, if a contractor ((~~has elected~~)) elects to bank licensed beds ((~~prior to May 25, 2001,~~)) or elects to convert banked beds to active service ((~~at any time~~)), under chapter 70.38 RCW, the department shall use the facility's ((~~new licensed bed capacity to recalculate minimum occupancy for rate setting and revise the financing allowance component rate, as needed, effective as of the date the beds are banked or converted to active service~~)) anticipated resident occupancy level subsequent to the decrease or increase in licensed bed capacity. However, in no case shall the department use less than eighty-five percent occupancy of the facility's licensed bed capacity after banking or conversion. ((~~Effective July 1, 2002, in no case, other than for essential community providers, shall the department use less than ninety percent occupancy of the facility's licensed bed capacity after conversion.~~))

(5) The financing allowance rate allocation calculated in accordance with this section shall be adjusted to the extent necessary to comply with RCW 74.46.421.

Sec. 7. RCW 74.46.506 and 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 s 10 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The direct care component rate allocation corresponds to the provision of nursing care for one resident of a nursing facility for one day, including direct care supplies. Therapy services and supplies, which correspond to the therapy care component rate, shall be excluded. The direct care component rate includes elements of case mix determined consistent with the principles of this section and other applicable provisions of this chapter.

(2) Beginning October 1, 1998, the department shall determine and update quarterly for each nursing facility serving medicaid residents a facility-specific per-resident day direct care component rate allocation, to be effective on the first day of each calendar quarter. In determining direct care component rates the department shall utilize, as specified in this section, minimum data set resident assessment data for each resident of the facility, as transmitted to, and if necessary corrected by, the department in the resident assessment instrument format approved by federal authorities for use in this state.

(3) The department may question the accuracy of assessment data for any resident and utilize corrected or substitute information, however derived, in determining direct care component rates. The department is authorized to impose civil fines and to take adverse rate actions against a contractor, as specified by the department in rule, in order to obtain compliance with resident assessment and data transmission requirements and to ensure accuracy.

(4) Cost report data used in setting direct care component rate allocations shall be 1996 and 1999, for rate periods as specified in RCW 74.46.431(4)(a).

(5) Beginning October 1, 1998, the department shall rebase each nursing facility's direct care component rate allocation as described in RCW 74.46.431, adjust its direct care component rate allocation for economic trends and conditions as described in RCW 74.46.431, and update its medicaid average case mix index, consistent with the following:

(a) Reduce total direct care costs reported by each nursing facility for the applicable cost report period specified in RCW 74.46.431(4)(a) to reflect any department adjustments, and to eliminate reported resident therapy costs and adjustments, in order to derive the facility's total allowable direct care cost;

(b) Divide each facility's total allowable direct care cost by its adjusted resident days for the same report period, increased if necessary to a minimum occupancy of eighty-five percent; that is, the greater of actual or imputed occupancy at eighty-five percent of licensed beds, to derive the facility's allowable direct care cost per resident day;

(c) Adjust the facility's per resident day direct care cost by the applicable factor specified in RCW 74.46.431(4) (b) and (c) to derive its adjusted allowable direct care cost per resident day;

(d) Divide each facility's adjusted allowable direct care cost per resident day by the facility average case mix index for the applicable quarters specified by RCW 74.46.501(7)(b) to derive the facility's allowable direct care cost per case mix unit;

(e) Effective for July 1, 2001, rate setting, divide nursing facilities into at least two and, if applicable, three peer groups: Those located in nonurban counties; those located in high labor-cost counties, if any; and those located in other urban counties;

(f) Array separately the allowable direct care cost per case mix unit for all facilities in nonurban counties; for all facilities in high labor-cost counties, if applicable; and for all facilities in other urban counties, including the high labor-cost counties, and determine the median allowable direct care cost per case mix unit for each peer group;

(g) Except as provided in (i) of this subsection, from October 1, 1998, through June 30, 2000, determine each facility's quarterly direct care component rate as follows:

(i) Any facility whose allowable cost per case mix unit is less than eighty-five percent of the facility's peer group median established under (f) of this subsection shall be assigned a cost per case mix unit equal to eighty-five percent of the facility's peer group median, and shall have a direct care component rate allocation equal to the facility's assigned cost per case mix unit multiplied by that facility's medicaid average case mix index from the applicable quarter specified in RCW 74.46.501(7)(c);

(ii) Any facility whose allowable cost per case mix unit is greater than one hundred fifteen percent of the peer group median established under (f) of this subsection shall be assigned a cost per case mix unit equal to one hundred fifteen percent of the peer group median, and shall have a direct care component rate allocation equal to the facility's assigned cost per case mix unit multiplied by that facility's medicaid average case mix index from the applicable quarter specified in RCW 74.46.501(7)(c);

(iii) Any facility whose allowable cost per case mix unit is between eighty-five and one hundred fifteen percent of the peer group median established under (f) of this subsection shall have a direct care component rate allocation equal to the facility's allowable cost per case mix unit multiplied by that facility's medicaid average case mix index from the applicable quarter specified in RCW 74.46.501(7)(c);

(h) Except as provided in (i) of this subsection, from July 1, 2000, forward, and for all future rate setting, determine each facility's quarterly direct care component rate as follows:

(i) Any facility whose allowable cost per case mix unit is less than ninety percent of the facility's peer group median established under (f) of this subsection shall be assigned a cost per case mix unit equal to ninety percent of the facility's peer group median, and shall have a direct care component rate allocation equal to the facility's

assigned cost per case mix unit multiplied by that facility's medicaid average case mix index from the applicable quarter specified in RCW 74.46.501(7)(c);

(ii) Any facility whose allowable cost per case mix unit is greater than one hundred ten percent of the peer group median established under (f) of this subsection shall be assigned a cost per case mix unit equal to one hundred ten percent of the peer group median, and shall have a direct care component rate allocation equal to the facility's assigned cost per case mix unit multiplied by that facility's medicaid average case mix index from the applicable quarter specified in RCW 74.46.501(7)(c);

(iii) Any facility whose allowable cost per case mix unit is between ninety and one hundred ten percent of the peer group median established under (f) of this subsection shall have a direct care component rate allocation equal to the facility's allowable cost per case mix unit multiplied by that facility's medicaid average case mix index from the applicable quarter specified in RCW 74.46.501(7)(c);

(i)(i) Between October 1, 1998, and June 30, 2000, the department shall compare each facility's direct care component rate allocation calculated under (g) of this subsection with the facility's nursing services component rate in effect on September 30, 1998, less therapy costs, plus any exceptional care offsets as reported on the cost report, adjusted for economic trends and conditions as provided in RCW 74.46.431. A facility shall receive the higher of the two rates.

(ii) Between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2002, the department shall compare each facility's direct care component rate allocation calculated under (h) of this subsection with the facility's direct care component rate in effect on June 30, 2000. A facility shall receive the higher of the two rates. Between July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2002, if during any quarter a facility whose rate paid under (h) of this subsection is greater than either the direct care rate in effect on June 30, 2000, or than that facility's allowable direct care cost per case mix unit calculated in (d) of this subsection multiplied by that facility's medicaid average case mix index from the applicable quarter specified in RCW 74.46.501(7)(c), the facility shall be paid in that and each subsequent quarter pursuant to (h) of this subsection and shall not be entitled to the greater of the two rates.

(iii) Effective July 1, 2002, all direct care component rate allocations shall be as determined under (h) of this subsection.

(6) The direct care component rate allocations calculated in accordance with this section shall be adjusted to the extent necessary to comply with RCW 74.46.421.

(7) Payments resulting from increases in direct care component rates, granted under authority of RCW 74.46.508(1) for a facility's exceptional care residents, shall be offset against the facility's examined, allowable direct care costs, for each report year or partial period such increases are paid. Such reductions in allowable direct care costs shall be for rate setting, settlement, and other purposes deemed appropriate by the department.

Sec. 8. RCW 74.46.521 and 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 s 13 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The operations component rate allocation corresponds to the general operation of a nursing facility for one resident for one day, including but not limited to management, administration, utilities, office supplies, accounting and bookkeeping, minor building maintenance, minor equipment repairs and replacements, and other supplies and services, exclusive of direct care, therapy care, support services, property, financing allowance, and variable return.

(2) Beginning October 1, 1998, the department shall determine each medicaid nursing facility's operations component rate allocation using cost report data specified by RCW 74.46.431(7)(a). ((~~Effective July 1, 2002, operations component rates for all facilities except essential community providers shall be based upon a minimum occupancy of ninety percent of licensed beds, and no operations component rate shall be revised in response to beds banked on or after May 25, 2001, under chapter 70.38 RCW.~~))

(3) To determine each facility's operations component rate the department shall:

(a) Array facilities' adjusted general operations costs per adjusted resident day for each facility from facilities' cost reports from the applicable report year, for facilities located within urban counties and for those located within nonurban counties and determine the median adjusted cost for each peer group;

(b) Set each facility's operations component rate at the lower of:

(i) The facility's per resident day adjusted operations costs from the applicable cost report period adjusted if necessary to a minimum

occupancy of eighty-five percent of licensed beds ((~~before July 1, 2002, and ninety percent effective July 1, 2002~~)); or

(ii) The adjusted median per resident day general operations cost for that facility's peer group, urban counties or nonurban counties; and

(c) Adjust each facility's operations component rate for economic trends and conditions as provided in RCW 74.46.431(7)(b).

(4) The operations component rate allocations calculated in accordance with this section shall be adjusted to the extent necessary to comply with RCW 74.46.421.

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