

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO  
Departmental Correspondence

DATE: JUL 18 2001  
HEARING DATE: JUL 31 2001

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Timothy B. McMurdo, Director, Hospital & Clinics Division  
SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the Controller to Pay Non-Contract Physicians

RECOMMENDATION

Resolution authorizing the Controller to pay non-contract physicians who provide medical services at San Mateo County General Hospital.

Background

The county currently contracts with Medical Associates of San Mateo County (MASMC), a physician managed care organization (IPA), to provide specialty services at San Mateo County General Hospital (SMCGH) and Clinics. From time-to-time it is necessary to augment the IPA-provided physicians with non-contract physicians because there is not sufficient IPA coverage for specialty care. Examples of shortages are: pediatric on-call coverage, gastro-enterology, neurosurgery and dental surgery.

Discussion

This resolution will authorize the Controller to pay all on-call specialists, including gastroenterologists, neurosurgeons, and dental surgeons who provide emergency backup when no other medical coverage is available, at 60% of their billed inpatient charges and 50% of their billed outpatient charges. These are low volume emergency services which are not available on a 24 hour-basis. If on-call specialists are not available, patients needing these services will be required to be transferred to other providers at a considerably higher county expense.

Term and Fiscal Impact

The term is April 1, 2001 through March 31, 2002. Payments to on-call pediatricians shall be the lesser of the physicians' billed charges or the prevailing Medicare Participating Fee Schedule for San Mateo County. Payments to specialty physicians will be at 60% of charges for inpatient and 50% of charges for outpatient services. Payments under this resolution will not exceed \$40,000 for the term. Funds were included in the 2000-01 Hospital and Clinics budget and are included in the 2001-02 recommended budget.

RECOMMENDED

  
HEALTH SERVICES

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTROLLER  
TO PAY TO NON-CONTRACT PHYSICIANS

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide emergency coverage for Gastroenterology, Neurosurgery and Dental Surgery when contracted-service providers are unavailable; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide pediatric-on-call coverage when contract service providers are unavailable; and

WHEREAS, effective April 1, 2001 through March 31, 2002, payments to non-contract physicians will not exceed \$40,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that

1) the Controller pay non-contract physicians for and on behalf of the County of San Mateo in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for the period April 1, 2001 through March 31, 2002, 2) said payments shall be in compliance with Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), 3) pediatricians shall be paid the lesser of billed charges or the prevailing Medicare Participating Fee Schedule for San Mateo County, 4) all other specialties, including Gastroenterologists, Neurologists, and Dental Surgeons who provide emergency back-up services shall be reimbursed at 60% of their charges for inpatient procedures and 50% of their charges for outpatient services.