

Ambulance Services and Cost Shift

From: Rep. Avram Patt

[Posted to web page 3/10/15, under Avram Patt and Cost Shift]

Committee members and Jim Masland,

As I'd mentioned, I had asked what the cost would be to do what is in H.138. See response below forwarded by Nolan Langwell. (Nolan, I'm assuming this is total dollars including federal?)

Whether we can get their reimbursement up to Medicare level or not, it seems like 43% is a problem (and creates a cost shift to municipalities as well as insurance carriers. As noted by Kara Suter below, they can't really explain why it's so low.

--Avram Patt, State Representative

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nolan Langweil <NLangweil@leg.state.vt.us>

Date: February 20, 2015 at 10:49:49 AM EST

To: Avram Patt <APatt@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: Ambulance services

Rep. Patt –

Please see below ...

From: Suter, Kara [mailto:Kara.Suter@state.vt.us]

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2015 10:34 AM

To: Nolan Langweil

Cc: Lunge, Robin; Berliner, Ashley; Blackburn, Christine; Maddalena, Deborah; Hickman, Selina; Prince, Samantha

Subject: RE: Legislative question

Hi Nolan et al:

Our team did some analysis and I did a quick scan of the bill, here is summary of what we found:

- 1) We estimate Medicaid is reimbursing approximately 43% (42%-44%) of Medicare for ambulance services. It would take approximately \$3.5-\$3.8 million to close the gap. Happy to provide that analysis if folks want that level of detail.
- 2) Note a July 1 implementation date may be difficult depending on timing of when this was finalized as we'll need to do modeling, public notice, SPA, etc. Not impossible just tight for us.
- 3) Note that we currently have some significant differences in the way we pay versus Medicare. We have taken those into account in our estimates. I can't find any historic reasons for why we did things differently so not sure what the historic rational may or may not have been. From my perspective, would make sense to standardize however 1) this would take a significant amount of \$\$'s/resources to change relative to small overall spending on ambulance services so not sure it makes sense and 2) would definitely need more time for that like at least six months--and perhaps more like 8 months is more likely. Just thought I'd mention in case this was brought up during testimony/discussions.

--Thanks, Kara

From: Nolan Langweil [NLangweil@leg.state.vt.us]

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 1:14 PM

To: Suter, Kara

Subject: RE: Legislative question

Hey Kara –

I know it's only been a week but wanted to check in with you on this ... especially because you mentioned you will be away next week.

--Nolan

From: Nolan Langweil

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 1:25 PM

To: 'Suter, Kara'

Subject: RE: Legislative question

Here is a link to the bill if that helps.

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0138/H-0138%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

If the language in the bill makes no sense that might be worth flagging as well.

I would say this is not a high priority so a week or two is fine.

Thanks.

--Nolan

From: Suter, Kara [mailto:Kara.Suter@state.vt.us]

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 1:09 PM

To: Nolan Langweil

Subject: RE: Legislative question

I have not done that analysis and our system doesn't exactly mirror Medicare so will need one to two weeks to get an accurate estimate. I can ballpark a range based on current spending and our average differentials with Medicare-- but it will be a guess. Let me know what makes most sense. K

From: Nolan Langweil [NLangweil@leg.state.vt.us]

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 1:06 PM

To: Suter, Kara

Subject: Legislative question

Hey Kara –

I have a legislative request concerning ambulance services. The Rep. would like to know how much it would cost to bring the reimbursement rates for ambulance services up to Medicare levels.

Thanks in advance. Nice to see you this morning.

--Nolan

Nolan Langweil