

PROPOSED LANGUAGE ADJUSTMENTS VERMONT SENATE BILL S.190

An Act Relating to the Green Mountain Care Board, Reference-Based Pricing, and Hospital Outsourcing of Clinical Care, and other technical changes and updates.

Reference-Based Pricing (Sec. 1)

Consider including additional language to require a common definition of the Medicare base:

Unless and until GMCB's hospital RBP rule is established, we suggest including an interim definition of the "Medicare base" as the "Medicare Adjusted Base Rate," meaning the standardized Medicare payment amount for a hospital inpatient, outpatient, or professional service as determined under the federal Medicare program, calculated prior to the application of any hospital-specific, patient-specific, or policy-based payment adjustments, and reflecting only the core payment methodology used by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to establish baseline payment levels. For services furnished by a Critical Access Hospital, the Medicare Adjusted Base Rate shall be determined as though the service were paid under the applicable Medicare prospective payment system, using the Medicare payment methodology that would apply if the hospital were not designated as a Critical Access Hospital.

Consider modifying language of new 18 V.S.A. § 9376(e)(C) to ensure it captures all contracts: "For provider contracts entered into, amended, or renewed on or after October 1, 2026 . . ."

Health System Performance Tool (Secs. 11-12)

GMCB proposes to amend existing language on page 14 to:

(b)(1) The Board shall develop and maintain a public, interactive tool that displays information on health system performance, including ~~on quality, access, and affordability hospital prices relative to Medicare rates, both as a percentage of Medicare and in dollars and cents. The tool shall enable the user to sort the information by service line and by payer.~~

(2) The Board shall update the information in the health system performance tool ~~on a regular basis as operationally practical at least quarterly.~~