

# TOBACCO SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

---

## Punxsutawney Area Hospital Tobacco Settlement Payment Data Review Year 2020

---

September 2019



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018  
Facebook: Pennsylvania Auditor General  
Twitter: @PAAuditorGen**

**EUGENE A. DePASQUALE  
AUDITOR GENERAL**

August 28, 2019

Mr. Jack Sisk  
Chief Financial Officer  
Punxsutawney Area Hospital  
81 Hillcrest Drive  
Punxsutawney, PA 15767

Re: Punxsutawney Area Hospital

Dear Mr. Sisk:

The Tobacco Settlement Act of June 26, 2001 (P.L. 755, No. 77), as amended, 35 P.S. § 5701.101 et seq., mandated the Department of Human Services (DHS) to make payments to hospitals for a portion of uncompensated care services provided by these facilities. Hospitals that qualify can receive payments using either an uncompensated care approach or an extraordinary expense approach. The uncompensated care score of each hospital is determined by using three-year averages from five main data elements (for a total of fifteen data elements). These data elements are uncompensated care costs, net patient revenues, Medicare supplemental security income (Medicare SSI) days, Medical Assistance (MA) days and total inpatient days. A hospital qualifies for an extraordinary expense payment based on their number of qualified claims. Qualified claims are those claims in which the cost of the claim exceeds twice the average cost of all claims for that particular facility and for which the hospital provided inpatient services to an uninsured patient.

At the request of the DHS, the Department of the Auditor General performed a review<sup>1</sup> of Punxsutawney Area Hospital's records to substantiate the claims data and days data it submitted to the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) and the DHS, respectively.

The purpose of our review was to determine whether this facility reported any potentially eligible extraordinary expense claims for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 and, if so, verify whether corresponding patients were uninsured and the facility received no compensation from third party payers such as Medicare, Medicaid, or Blue Cross. Payments made by the patients

---

<sup>1</sup> This review was not required to be and was not conducted in accordance with professional auditing or attestation standards.

themselves toward their financial obligations may have reduced the allowable costs of the respective claim when determining eligibility. We also determined whether this facility could substantiate total MA days as reported on its submitted MA-336 cost reports, if filed with the DHS, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017.

The results of our review are as follows:

**For Reported Claims:**

Based on the PHC4 claims database for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, the facility reported five potentially eligible extraordinary expense claim, totaling \$163,463.68. We reviewed four of these reported claims, representing at least 80% of the hospital’s total dollar value of reported claims.<sup>2</sup> The results of our review disclosed that one of these four reported potentially eligible extraordinary expense claims met the criteria to qualify as an extraordinary expense claim. The chart below details our results and explains any adjustments that should be made to the PHC4 Database. Since we determined that one of these four reported claims submitted by the facility qualifies as an extraordinary expense claim, this facility could be eligible for payment under the extraordinary expense method for the 2020 Tobacco Settlement Payment Year.

Claim No.	Originally Reported Total Charges	Substantiated Total Charges Based on Account Notes	Patient Payments Applied to Account	Qualify (Y/N) – Reason for Not Qualifying	Adjustment(s) Needed
1.	\$54,322.22	\$0	\$0	No – Still an active account	Claim should be removed from self-pay listing
2.	\$38,831.76	\$0	\$0	No – Paid by the patient	Claim should be removed from self-pay listing
3.	\$25,384.74	\$0	\$0	No – Paid by the patient	Claim should be removed from self-pay listing
4.	\$23,382.36	\$23,382.36	\$0	Yes	Not Applicable

**For MA Days:**

For the total MA days for fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, our results are as follows:

For FYE 6/30/17	Originally Submitted Number of Days	Substantiated Number Based on Source Documents	Explanation of Difference
FFS Days	60	60	Not Applicable
HMO Days	632	632	Not Applicable
OOS Days	0	0	Not Applicable

<sup>2</sup> The facility is responsible for self-reviewing the remaining claims during the PHC4 “open window” period.

The DHS will use all substantiated reported claims and number of days to calculate Punxsutawney Area Hospital's eligibility to receive, and if deemed eligible, its subsidy entitlement under both the extraordinary expense and uncompensated care methods. If eligible under both methods, the DHS will allow the facility to choose the method to be used to calculate the facility's 2020 Tobacco Settlement subsidy entitlement payment. The DHS establishes the date that these payments will be distributed to all eligible hospitals.

Our office is currently reviewing all facilities that are potentially eligible for a 2020 Tobacco Settlement subsidy entitlement payment. After all the reviews are completed, we will prepare for the DHS' use a report detailing the results of all of our reviews. The PHC4 and the DHS will contact you with instructions regarding entering adjustments to your facility's originally submitted claims and MA days data based on the results of our review.

As a reminder, Punxsutawney Area Hospital may submit for our review any claims coded as having Medicare, Medicaid, or any other insurance when submitted to the PHC4 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, which the facility now believes qualify as self-pay claims, and which have total charges above this facility's threshold of \$21,388.53. We refer to these types of claims as "additional claims" and these additional claims must be submitted to the Department of the Auditor General no later than October 31, 2019. The results of our review of each facility's submitted additional claims data will be detailed in individualized reports sent to each respective hospital that submitted additional claims.

We thank the staff of Punxsutawney Area Hospital for the cooperation extended to us during the course of our review. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tracie Fountain, CPA, Director, Bureau of Children and Youth Services Audits at 717-787-1159.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugene A. DePasquale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eugene A. DePasquale  
Auditor General

**PUNXSUTAWNEY AREA HOSPITAL  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION  
2020 TOBACCO SETTLEMENT PAYMENT DATA**

This report was initially distributed to:

**Ms. Leesa Allen**  
Executive Deputy Secretary  
Department of Human Services

**Ms. Johanna Fabian-Marks**  
Chief of Staff  
Department of Human Services

**Mr. R. Dennis Welker**  
Special Audit Services  
Bureau of Audits  
Office of the Budget

**Ms. Tina Long**  
Director  
Bureau of Financial Operations  
Department of Human Services

**Mr. David Bryan**  
Manager  
Audit Resolution  
Department of Human Services

**Ms. Erica Eisenacher**  
HSPS  
Bureau of Fiscal Management  
Department of Human Services

**Mr. Alexander Matolyak**  
Director  
Division of Audit and Review  
Department of Human Services

**Mr. Jack Sisk**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Punxsutawney Area Hospital

**Ms. Cheryl Graham**  
Director of Reimbursement  
Punxsutawney Area Hospital

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at [www.PaAuditor.gov](http://www.PaAuditor.gov). Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: [news@PaAuditor.gov](mailto:news@PaAuditor.gov).