

# TOBACCO SETTLEMENT REVIEW

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## Pocono Medical Center Uncompensated Care Payment Year 2013

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October 2014



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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**EUGENE A. DePASQUALE  
AUDITOR GENERAL**

October 2, 2014

Mr. Michael Wilk  
Chief Financial Officer  
Pocono Medical Center  
206 East Brown Street  
East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18301

Dear Mr. Wilk:

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 Public Welfare (DPW) to make payments to hospitals for a portion of uncompensated care services provided by these facilities. The Department of the Auditor General performed a review of Pocono Medical Center's records to substantiate the data it submitted to the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) and the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) for payments made under the Tobacco Settlement Act of June 26, 2001 (P.L. 755, No. 77), as amended, 35 P.S. § 5701.101 et seq. The DPW used this data to calculate the year 2013 uncompensated care payment of \$312,906.01 it made to the facility for uncompensated care services.

Beginning with payments made under Chapter 11 of the Tobacco Settlement Act of June 26, 2001 (P.L. 755, No. 77), as amended, 35 P.S. § 5701.101 et seq., in June 2002, 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 its 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.

Per the requirements of the Tobacco Settlement Act of June 26, 2001 (P.L. 755, No. 77), as amended, 35 P.S. § 5701.101 et seq., the 2013 uncompensated care payment was to be calculated based on three-year averages of the above listed data elements for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2009, 2010, and 2011. However, because the most recent data used by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to calculate the Medicare SSI days for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2008, 2009, and 2010, the DPW chose to calculate the 2013 Medicare SSI days data element based on three-year averages of Medicare SSI days for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2008, 2009, and 2010, as these years represent the most recent data available for Medicare SSI days.

The purpose of our review was to determine whether proper documentation existed for the 15 data elements utilized by the Department of Public Welfare in calculating the 2013 uncompensated care payment received by the facility. Our review consisted of verifying: the facility's documentation supporting the uncompensated care costs and net patient revenues submitted to the PHC4 for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2009, 2010, and 2011; patients' census records supporting MA days and total inpatient days, as included on the facility's Medical Assistance cost reports submitted to the DPW for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2009, 2010, and 2011; and the Medicare SSI days, as determined by the CMS for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

Additionally, the purpose of our review was to verify the calculation of the UC score used to determine whether a facility qualifies for uncompensated care payment and to calculate the amount of the payment. The UC score is the sum of the three-year averages of uncompensated care costs as a percentage of net patient revenue, Medicare SSI days as a percentage of total inpatient days, and MA days as a percentage of total inpatient days.

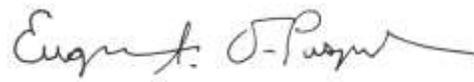
The results of our review disclosed that all 15 data elements utilized by the DPW to calculate the year 2013 uncompensated care payment were properly supported and reconciled to applicable supporting documentation.

The UC score used by the DPW to calculate the original payment was 21.00%. The results of our review determined that the UC score for Pocono Medical Center should remain at 21.00%. Although there is no change the facility's UC score, any change in the overall median UC score could affect the facility's eligibility for the 2013 uncompensated care payment.

Our office is currently reviewing all facilities that received uncompensated care payments for year 2013. Once all the reviews are completed, we will prepare a revised entitlement schedule based on the results of all our reviews and we will include that schedule in a final summary report to the DPW. After reviewing our summary report, the DPW will contact you with instructions regarding the settlement of the facility's 2013 uncompensated care entitlement.

We thank the staff of Pocono Medical Center 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 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 stroke extending to the right.

Eugene A. DePasquale  
Auditor General

**POCONO MEDICAL CENTER  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION  
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