

# DHHS Budget Initiative – Outpatient Behavioral Health to Section 65

This initiative calls for equalizing rates paid between community and hospital-based mental health and behavioral health service providers by requiring that all providers bill under Section 65 (Behavioral Health Services) of the MaineCare Benefits Manual (MBM) and receive the same rate of reimbursement. Today, hospital-based providers bill under Section 45 (Hospital Services) of the MBM and are reimbursed both a professional fee as well as an additional facility fee when they provide mental and behavioral health services. In addition to these two components, hospital-based providers are cost settled at the end of each year.

This reimbursement is similar to that of the initiative intended to create parity in reimbursement between community physicians and hospital-based physicians, as referenced in the fact sheet titled “Primary Care Reimbursement.”

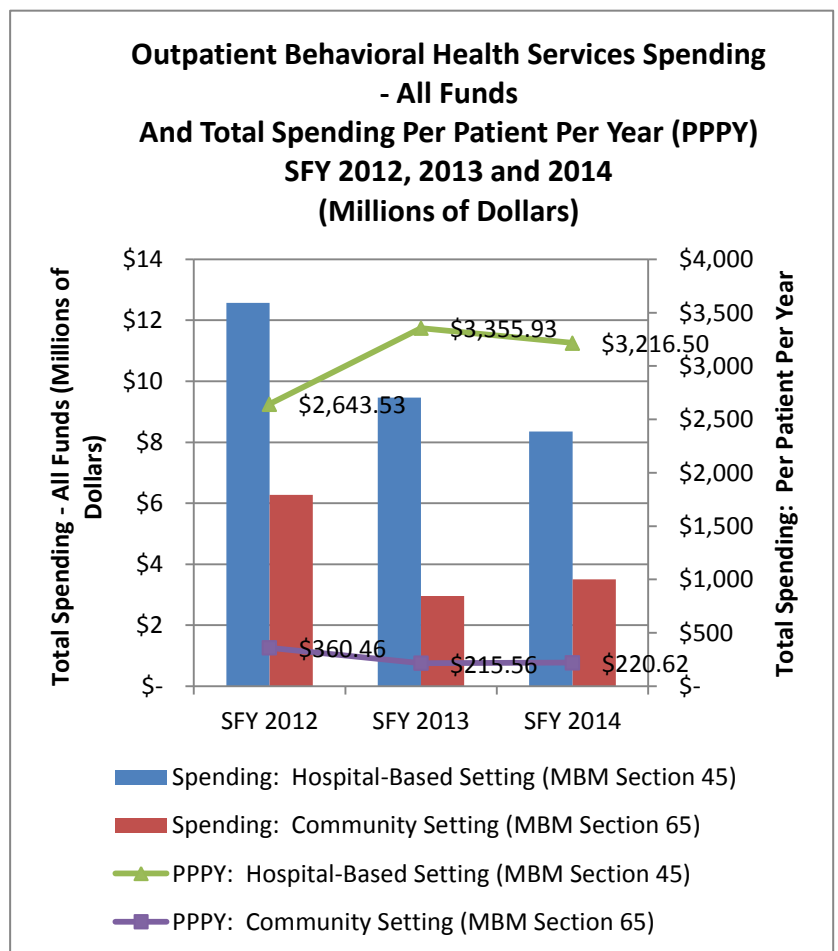
According to the 2011 study, *MaineCare Behavioral Health Outpatient Study: Comparing Services and Associated Costs in Hospital and Non-Hospital-Affiliated Clinics*:

## Cost Differentiators

- Hospital-affiliated payments appear to be approximately 25%-30% higher than non-hospital-affiliated, based on the data analysis
- A number of the initially identified cost differentiators do not definitively suggest that there should be a difference in provider’s reimbursement across settings

## Acuity

- It appears the majority of services authorized by APS are distributed approximately evenly between hospital-affiliated and non-hospital-affiliated clinics.
- Clients receiving care in a non-hospital-affiliated setting have similar levels of acuity as clients in a hospital-affiliated setting.



## Access

- Both hospital-affiliated clinics and non-hospital-affiliated clinics must overcome similar geographical challenges.

Hospital-affiliated clinics obtain approximately 26% higher payments from MaineCare than non-hospital-affiliated clinics for clients receiving care.

Average Paid <sup>1</sup> Amount per Visit <sup>2</sup>		
Service	Non-Hospital-Affiliated	Hospital-Affiliated <sup>3,4</sup>
Outpatient Therapy	\$80	\$104

## Initiative

This initiative represents the savings realized by requiring all community-based Behavioral Health Services, including those that are operating as part of a hospital or are an administrative unit of a hospital, to bill and receive rates of reimbursement under Section 65 of the MaineCare Benefits Manual.

## Savings

Year	State	Federal	Total
SFY 16	(\$824,002)	(\$1,371,580)	<b>(\$2,195,582)</b>
SFY 17	(\$819,611)	(\$1,375,971)	<b>(\$2,195,582)</b>