

File Number: H.F. 1349
Version: As introduced

Date: March 6, 2017

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Subject: Dental Care Pilot; Critical Access Dental Provider Criteria

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Overview

This bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to authorize a pilot project to reduce hospital emergency room costs for preventable or nonemergency dental services. The bill also allows a dental clinic designated as a critical access dental provider to submit claims and be paid for services provided at off-site private dental offices. Critical access dental providers receive enhanced MA and MinnesotaCare reimbursement (37.5 or 35 percent above the regular MA rate, and 32.5 or 30 percent above the regular MinnesotaCare rate).

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- 1 Dental care pilot project.** Adds § 256.9641. Requires the commissioner of human services to authorize a pilot project to reduce hospital emergency room costs for preventable or nonemergency dental services provided to state public health care program enrollees. Under the project, a community dental clinic or dental provider, in collaboration with a hospital emergency room, would provide urgent dental care services as an alternative to the use of the hospital emergency room. Requires project participants to establish a process to divert patients from the emergency room to the dental clinic or provider. Allows the commissioner to establish special payment rates for urgent care services and change or waive existing payment policies. Allows the commissioner to establish the project in conjunction with an existing emergency room diversion project focused on primary care.
- 2 Critical access dental providers.** Amends § 256B.76, subd. 4. Allows a clinic designated as a critical access dental provider to receive reimbursement at the critical access dental provider rate for dental services provided off-site at a private dental office if:

Section

- (1) the critical access dental clinic is not able to provide the service, and refers the patient to the off-site dentist;
- (2) the services would have been reimbursed at the critical access rate;
- (3) the dentists and allied professionals providing the service are licensed and in good standing;
- (4) the critical access dental clinic submits the claim for services provided off-site and receives the payment;
- (5) the critical access dental clinic maintains records for each claim submitted; and
- (6) the commissioner makes available on the agency Web site the addresses of the off-site dental offices and contact information for the critical access dental clinic, and that clinic serves as the point of contact for services provided off-site.

Provides a July 1, 2017 effective date.