

Subject Medical assistance reimbursement for behavioral health services

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Summary

In Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 7, article 17, section 18, the legislature appropriated money in fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024 to the commissioner of human services for an analysis of the current rate-setting methodology for all outpatient services in medical assistance and MinnesotaCare, including rates for behavioral health, substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, and residential SUD treatment. The commissioner was directed to provide a preliminary report on the initial results of the analysis and a final report to the relevant legislative committees by January 15, 2024, which should include a detailed fiscal analysis and legislative language necessary to modify existing or implement new rate methodologies, including a new SUD treatment rate methodology.

This bill adds a paragraph to section 256B.761 increasing the payment rate for any behavioral health services included in the above rate analysis by 35 percent from the rates in effect on December 31, 2023, effective for services rendered on or after January 1, 2024. For services rendered on or after January 1, 2025, the bill also requires those rates to be annually adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index for medical care services.

The bill specifies that these rate increases do not apply to federally qualified health centers, rural health centers, Indian health services, certified community behavioral health clinics, cost-based rates, and rates that are negotiated with the county. It also specifies that the paragraph expires upon implementation of the new rate methodology.